CNMI shining a light during 4-H National Conference. PAGE 2
DPS responds to over 84 calls from April 28 to May 4. PAGE 3

Hafa Adai!

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'Peeping tom was reason for parking memo'

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Extreme right is the designated parking space for Sen. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan), while next to it is the designated parking slot for Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan). DeLeon Guerrero's issuance of a memorandum about assigned parking slots is said to have started the rift between her and Babauta.

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) disclosed yesterday that a peeping tom/stalker was the reason why she issued a memorandum regarding Senate members' parking assignments.

» Senate president also notes pitbull walking freely in the Senate day before inauguration

"The assigned stalls are for the elected officials' safety and security," said DeLeon Guerrero in her response to *Saipan Tribune*'s request for comments about Sen. Celina R. Babauta's (D-Saipan) statement that a longstanding dysfunctional leadership has plagued the Senate for the past 16 months.

See MEMO on Page 4

Mafnas appointed as Commerce secretary

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Gov. Arnold I. Palacios has appointed Registrar of Corporations' Remedio C. Mafnas as the secretary for the Department of Corrections.

Palacios

Palacios informed Senate President Edith E. DeLeon Guerrero (D-Saipan) last Friday of Mafnas' nomination, which requires the advice and consent of the Senate.

The governor said he and Lt. Gov. David M. Apatang are confident that

See MAFNAS on Page 4

GVB chartering flights to Rota for FAM tour

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Guam Visitors Bureau is chartering four flights to Rota for a familiarization tour designed to introduce and welcome officials from the U.S. Department of Defense's Morale, Welfare and Recreation activity to the beauty and uniqueness of the island.

This targeted approach aims to showcase Rota's potential as a premier destination

See GVB on Page 4

FERDIE DE LA TORRE

Sen. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) gestures as she talks about the chartering of four flights to Rota this month and their recent trip to Japan during a press conference in her office Tuesday.

Curfew is imposed in New Caledonia after unrest wracks French territory

PARIS (AP)—Authorities in the French Pacific territory of New Caledonia announced a two-day curfew and banned gatherings on Tuesday after violent unrest erupted in the capital of Noumea and other areas.

In Paris, the French Interior Ministry announced that police reinforcements were being sent to island.

The territory's top French official, High Commissioner Louis Le Franc, said 46

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INSIDE

BUSINESS

Eight TikTok content creators sued the U.S. government on Tuesday, issuing another challenge to the new federal law that would ban the popular social media platform nationwide if its China-based parent company doesn't sell its stakes within a year.

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WORLD

Russian President Vladimir Putin will make a two-day state visit to China this week, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said Tuesday, in the latest show of unity between the two authoritarian allies against the U.S.-led Western liberal global order.

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LIFE & STYLE

A miniature poodle named Sage won the top prize Tuesday night at the Westminster Kennel Club dog show, an event that often has proven to be a poodle's realm.

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SCAN ME WITH A COMPATIBLE QR READER TO KEEP UPDATED ON ALL THE LATEST NEWS.

Local

CNMI shining a light during 4-H National Conference

By CHRYSTAL MARINO
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CORRESPONDENT

The six-person delegation that represented the CNMI and 4-H Marianas in the National 4-H Conference in Washington, D.C. didn't only play an integral role in the event, but also continued to shed light on the Marianas and brought a voice to local youth leaders.

4-H Marianas PRO Jedric Aniciete, vice president for Saipan Jane Mozunder, vice president for Tinian Joseph Santos Jr., president Clarize Rodriguez, and collegiate facilitator Rownel Jody Coloma shared their experiences in the conference last week at the Northern Marianas College campus in As Terlaje.

The National 4-H Conference, which took place from April 19 to 24, is the 4-H's premiere civic engagement event, bringing together youth delegates across the U.S. and its territories to discuss issues they see and work on solutions. The also got the opportunity to present to federal partner agencies and speak to members of the U.S. Congress.

While serving on the Youth Leadership Team, they facilitated collegiate discussions, made substantive contributions to crucial roundtable discussions, and Santos even delivered the 4-H pledge in the Chamorro language during the opening ceremony.

Coloma shared that this year was special as young 4-H representatives from every U.S. territory were present for the conference.

"It was just momentous for 4-H Marianas to send youth delegates and provide perspectives unique to our region at a national level. Considering not many of these delegates have even heard of the CNMI and just being able to represent our people out there, let them know we are also part of the United States, and we can bring these unique perspectives to the table as we think of solutions to the challenges presented to us by different federal agencies."

Mozunder shared that one of the things that stuck out to her was a discussion about the U.S. Department of Agriculture and animal service and food security.

"I think that's such an important aspect within the Marianas to talk about food security. Folks there were really interested in gaining insight from the Marianas and I believe that they're considering to start some projects here for food security and just a little bit of consideration is definitely heartwarming and something that we should all be looking forward to and start seeing some change."

The five individuals agreed that one of the unforgettable moments was when a mwar gifted to one of the high officials was raised during the conference and the CNMI delegation was recognized. Even more memorable was when Santos delivered the 4-H Pledge in Chamorro.

"It was really a remarkable experience to be able to represent the CNMI as a whole and really showcase part of our culture on a national stage," said Santos.

Rodriguez also shared, "I thought it to be really beneficial to attend this year's conference and I've been in the conference for two straight years now. What really helped me was just to know that my voice matters. As someone who comes from the CNMI, majority of the people that were in the conference all come from the states, but just being there and attending the conference, it just shows that our voice from the territories matter, and whatever we say as part of the roundtable also goes as part of the solutions that go to the challenges for each department. I also think it really helps by just opening up your mind to different perspectives, because despite us coming from different backgrounds, we were able to collaborate and come up with solutions and all the knowledge comes together to make a solution for the department."

"We've been really fortunate to have stellar young leaders in our midst," said Family, Community and Youth Development Program leader Tayna Belyeu-Camacho, "They work collectively between Rota, Tinian, and Saipan. There's a representation from all islands because what we are doing or the bigger picture of 4-H is really building and enhancing social capital. We want to make sure that our youth are able to work collectively, regardless of whether or not we are divided by water. We are One Marianas. Through that effort they are learning to connect with each other, so that one day minus today when they are in different leadership roles, they take those skills with them beyond just our shores. As they enter our workforce, they bring those skills that they don't necessarily learn in school. They take these soft skills with them and continue to enhance the capacity of the rest of our people."

NMC-Cooperative Research Extension and Education Services interim dean Patricia Coleman also congratulated the efforts of the CNMI delegation to the National 4-H Conference.

"Whenever I go to land-grant meetings with national leadership there's always at least one person who comes up to me and says, 'Patty…I just want to say that the Northern Mariana Islands, 4-H Marianas, they are doing outstanding work.' So, I think this is a real reflection of having a youth-led organization. Another testament to that is this summer, our partners from other land-grant universities are coming here to learn how to do youth-led positive youth development, because we have such a strong youth-led program that it's being noticed nationally as well. So great job to all of the youth leaders, and of course to Tanya and her team through the Family and Community Youth Development Program."

DPS responds to over 84 calls from April 28 to May 4

By KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
kimberly_esmores@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Department of Public Safety responded to a total of 84 incidences from April 28 to May 4.

In the spirit of transparency and as part of its goal to build back its relationship with the community, DPS recently released its police blotter report dated April 28 to May 4.

According to the report, within the period DPS responded to 84 reported incidences.

Specifically, of the 84 incidences, 69 were criminal incidents, 14 were traffic-related cases, and one was a distressed vessel incident.

In addition, within the period, six individuals were arrested.

For the criminal incidents, police responded to one assault incident; three assault and battery incidents; one nuisance incident; three domestic violence incidents; 32 disturbing the peace incidents; two vandalism incidents; eight criminal trespass incidents; one child abuse/neglect incident; three burglary incidents; and 15 theft incidents.

KIMBERLY B. ESMORES
The Department of Public Safety building in Susupe.

As for traffic incidents, DPS said it responded to nine auto-auto crash incidents; two auto parked vehicle incidents; and three auto fixed object incidents.

In addition, DPS Boating Safety responded to one distressed vessel incident during the period.

As part of DPS' goals, it issues weekly police blotter reports that detail the number of reports made in the last week, what incidents were reported, and how many arrests were made in that week.

DPS spokesperson Fred Sato previously said the numbers provided based on the blotter reports are calls made to DPS and responses of its officers.

"All active criminal complaints are taken, then forwarded to our Criminal Investigation Bureau. All traffic-related incidents, including fatality reported crashes, are forwarded to our Highway Patrol Investigation units," he said.

361 Guam Community College students graduate on May 17

Guam Community College will graduate 361 students on Friday, May 17, 2024 at 9am at the UOG Calvo Fieldhouse in Mangilao. Graduates include 53 adult high school, 47 apprenticeship, 220 associate of science, 56 associate of arts, and 65 certifications. The total count of graduates walking on Friday, 292. The total number of degrees and certificates conferred are 441.

GCC
Ireese Valencia is Guam Community College's Most Distinguished Graduate.

GCC
Joriza Noelle Luzano is Guam Community College's Distinguished Graduate.

Most Distinguished & Distinguished graduates

The Most Distinguished and Distinguished awardees for Academic Year 2024 have been selected and will be recognized in Friday's ceremony. The Top 2 students are Most Distinguished Graduate Ireese Valencia, Associate of Science in Marketing and Distinguished Graduate Joriza Noelle Luzano, Associate of Science in Computer Science.

Valencia graduate Top 20 in 2021 at Okkodo High School and received a Certificate of Mastery for her hard work in GCC's secondary Marketing program. Her parents are Rodrigo and Amor Valencia of Dededo. She is a devoted marketing student and embodies an unwavering passion for content creation and entrepreneurship. "I thrive on overcoming challenges," Ms. Valencia said. "I am constantly seeking opportunities to broaden my skill set and explore new horizons. Beyond my academic pursuits, I am driven by a vision to reshape the marketing landscape through captivating storytelling and innovative strategies," she added.

Luzano is a 2021 graduate from George Washington High School and received a Certificate of Mastery in Nursing while at G.W.H.S. Her parents are Noel Samson and Karen Ann Luzano of Mangilao. Throughout her academic journey, she has honed fundamental skills such as leadership, creativity, perseverance, and adaptability alongside her peers to excel in her studies. "I look forward to continue my education and pursue a Bachelor's in Computer Science while growing my experience working in the field of technology," Luzano shared. "I am enthusiastic to make significant contributions to my respected field. I aspire to continue learning, growing, and positively impacting the people and the community," she said. ***(PR)***

DOL Enforcement Office temporarily closed on May 16, 17

The Department of Labor Enforcement Office is committed to ensuring the integrity and accuracy of labor data, especially in crucial sectors such as agriculture. To further this goal, the DOL Saipan Enforcement office will be temporarily closing its doors from May 16 to 17, 2024, to conduct Agricultural Surveys in Tinian for the FLC grant.

While the office is closed, DOL encourages individuals to submit any necessary documents or inquiries to the Administrative Services office located in Building 1356. Additionally, individuals may call (670) 664-3196 or email info@dol.gov.mp.

The DOL Enforcement Office remains committed to serving the public and ensuring the well-being of workers across all sectors. It apologizes for any inconvenience caused by this temporary closure. ***(PR)***

6 from Saipan named to Bob Jones University dean's list

GREENVILLE, SC—The following students from Saipan are among approximately 740 Bob Jones University students named to the dean's list for the Spring 2024 semester:

- Heng Bao, a sophomore Kinesiology major from Saipan
- Junyu Chen, a junior Engineering major from Saipan
- Diana Dong, a freshman Accounting major from Saipan
- Jiashen Song, a sophomore Information Technology major from Saipan
- Zhenyu Zheng, a sophomore Interior Architecture and Design major from Saipan
- Jingyi Zhou, a freshman Kinesiology major from Saipan

The dean's list recognizes students who earn a 3.00-3.74 grade point average during the semester.

Located in Greenville, South Carolina, Bob Jones University provides an outstanding regionally accredited Christian liberal arts education purposely designed to inspire a lifelong pursuit of learning, loving and leading.

BJU offers over 100 undergraduate and graduate programs in religion, education, fine arts and communication, arts and science, health professions, and business.

BJU has over 3,000 students from nearly every state and more than 40 countries. ***(PR)***

DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION TO BID
ITB NO.: ITB24-BECQ/DLNR-42400084-CIF ROTA

SUBMISSION DATE: JUNE 4, 2024 TIME: 09:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF ONE (1) AGRICULTURAL TRACTOR FOR DLNR, ROTA"

COPIES OF THE SPECIFICATIONS MAY BE OBTAINED ON THE MUNIS VENDOR SELF SERVICE PORTAL (https://selfservice.dof.gov.mp/vss/) OR AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT SERVICES, LOCATED AT BLDG NO. 12552, ANATAHAN DRIVE, CAPTIOL HILL, SAIPAN, DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS ITB CAN BE MADE TO THE BUREAU OF ENVIRONMENTAL AND COASTAL QUALITY BY MAY 23, 2024, TO MR. RICHARD V. SALAS VIA EMAIL AT rsalas@dcrm.gov.mp

THE PROVISIONS OF THE CNMI PROCUREMENT REGULATIONS, NMIAC SECTION 70-30.3-725 AND 70-30.3-730 PROHIBITING GRATUITIES, KICKBACKS AND CONTINGENT FEES SHALL APPLY.

THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS, OR PORTIONS THEREOF, AND WAIVE IMMATERIAL DEFECTS IF TO DO SO WOULD BE IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE CNMI GOVERNMENT.

/S/ RICHARD V. SALAS
ADMINISTRATOR, OGM

/S/ BRIEN S. NICHOLAS JR.
ACTING DIRECTOR, PS

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-24-012

SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF HEAVY-DUTY VEHICLES

The Office of the Executive Director for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the supply and delivery of heavy-duty vehicles for its fleet in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded from the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA).

Prospective Bidders must pre-register with the CUC Procurement & Supply Division. The Bid Package may be obtained from the CUC Procurement and Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:00 p.m., Monday through Friday, except on government observed holidays, upon completion of registration and presentation of a receipt evidencing a non-refundable payment to the CUC Treasury Section, by cash, check or credit card in the amount of $100.00 (non-refundable) for one IFB package set.

One (1) original and Five (5) hard copies must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked ***"CUC-IFB-24-012, Supply and Delivery of Heavy-Duty Vehicles"*** to the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room No. 3, Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, P.O. Box 501220, Saipan, MP 96950, ***no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on June 3, 2024*** at which time they will be publicly opened and read aloud. Bids mailed via postal or courier service must be received on or before due date and time or post-marked before submission deadline. Late submissions and conditional offers will not be considered.

A Bid Guarantee of fifteen (15%) percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security deposit may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond executed by a surety company holding a certificate of authority from the United States Secretary of Treasury as an acceptable surety. Surety Company must be authorized to do business in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All insurers' questions, concerns and qualification should be handled by the Department of Commerce Office of the Insurance Commissioner (OIC). The OIC is tasked with regulating and monitoring compliance to the CNMI's Insurance Code (Title 4, Division 7). *Bidders are required to submit a clearance from the OIC certifying their insurer of choice is in compliance with the CNMI's Insurance Code.*

All bidders are advised that CUC assumes no responsibility in any act of omission on the part of the bidders due to lack of information or understanding of the bid requirements in the course of Contractor's preparation of a bid or supply under the contract. The IFB does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any cost incurred in the preparation of the bid under this request, or to procure or contract for goods. This bid and the ensuing contract shall be executed as per the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Questions or requests for clarification will be entertained only from registered Proponents and must be submitted in writing **no later than 10:00 AM (ChST) on May 13, 2024** to Manny B. Sablan, CUC's Purchasing Administrator, via email manny.sablan@cuc-gov.org with copies to Steven Rodriguez, CUC's Water/Wastewater Division Manager via email at rodolfo.rodriguez@cuc-gov.org and Marcela Tenorio, CUC's Senior Administrative Technician at marcela.tenorio@cucgov.org.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and waive any defects in the said bids, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids submitted shall become the property of CUC.

BETTINA G. TERLAJE
Acting Executive Director

MANNY B. SABLAN
Purchasing Administrator

Strong economy, low unemployment, higher job, wage growth extend SS Trust Funds to 2035

TROOP VISIT

MARK SCOTT/GUNG

From left, Guam Gov. Lou Leon Guerrero, Brig. Gen. Michael Cruz, adjutant general of the Guam National Guard, and Lt. Col. Jonathan Stafford, commander, Task Force Talon, visit with troops at the Terminal High Altitude Area Defense (THAAD) site, Guam, May 9, 2024. Task Force Talon is comprised of active duty Soldiers from the 38th Air Defense Artillery Brigade, and Guam National Guard Soldiers from the 1-294th Infantry Regiment, tasked with defending the over 150,000 U.S. Citizens of Guam from ballistic missile threats.

AIRMAN 1ST CLASS NATASHA NINETE/GUANG

U.S. Air Force Col. Anthony Lujan, center, commander of the Guam Air National Guard 254th Air Base Group, presides over the activation ceremony of the 254th Medical Flight, Guam, May 4, 2024. Consisting of about 11 personnel, the new unit will ensure the Guam Air Guard is fit to fight by supporting medical readiness.

The Social Security Board of Trustees released its annual report on the financial status of the health of the Social Security Trust Funds. The combined asset reserves of the Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Disability Insurance Trust Funds are projected to have enough dedicated revenue to pay all scheduled benefits and associated administrative costs until 2035, one year later than projected last year, with 83 percent of benefits payable at that time.

In the 2024 Annual Report to Congress, the Trustees announced:

■ The asset reserves of the combined OASI and DI Trust Funds declined by $41 billion in 2023 to a total of $2.788 trillion.

■ The total annual cost of the program is projected to exceed total annual income in 2024 and remain higher throughout the 75-year projection period. Total cost began to be higher than total income in 2021. Social Security's cost has exceeded its non-interest income since 2010.

■ The year when the combined trust fund reserves are projected to become depleted, if Congress does not act before then, is 2035. At that time, there would be sufficient income coming in to pay 83 percent of scheduled benefits.

"This year's report is a measure of good news for the millions of Americans who depend on Social Security, including the roughly 50% of seniors for whom Social Security is the difference between poverty and living in dignity—any potential benefit reduction event has been pushed off from 2034 to 2035. More people are contributing to Social Security, thanks to strong economic policies that have yielded impressive wage growth, historic job creation, and a steady, low unemployment rate. So long as Americans across our country continue to work, Social Security can—and will—continue to pay benefits," said Martin O'Malley, commissioner of Social Security. "Congress can and should take action to extend the financial health of the Trust Fund into the foreseeable future, just as it did in the past on a bipartisan basis. Eliminating the shortfall will bring peace of mind to Social Security's 70 million-plus beneficiaries, the 180 million workers and their families who contribute to Social Security, and the entire nation."

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

CURFEW

From page 1

security forces had been injured in the unrest and 48 people had been arrested. No serious civilian injuries were reported, he said in a statement.

Le Franc said Noumea was wracked by "high intensity" disturbances overnight Monday to Tuesday that damaged numerous stores and video surveillance equipment. Schools were closed on Tuesday, and most business and shops, some damaged in the unrest, remained shut.

French media reported that the unrest started with protests against voting reforms that French lawmakers are debating in Paris which would increase the number of people who could cast ballots in New Caledonia.

New Caledonia, colonized by Napoleon's nephew in the 19th century, is a vast archipelago of about 270,000 people east of Australia that is 10 time zones ahead of Paris and hosts a French military base.

Tensions in the archipelago between native Kanaks seeking independence and descendants of European colonizers who want to remain part of France have been simmering for decades.

Le Franc said in an interview with French broadcaster BFM that clashes between police forces and pro-independence protesters and opponents of the constitutional reform occurred overnight in Mont-Dore, a town in the southeast near Nouméa. Shots were fired at gendarmes "from high caliber weapons and hunting rifles," he said.

Hundreds of cars were set on fire and dozens of businesses and homes could be seen in flames on videos posted on social media.

"The situation remains extremely tense," Le Franc said. He said internal security troops and civil security forces have been mobilized to intervene.

Gatherings on public roads and in public places have been prohibited in the municipalities of Nouméa, Dumbéa, Mont-Dore and Païta, and all travel on public roads and in public places there was banned from Tuesday afternoon until Wednesday morning, except for health and public emergencies.

MEMO

From page 1

Babauta also disclosed during a press conference that she called Tuesday in her office, that her rift with the president started over a petty issue—parking space designation.

DeLeon Guerrero said yesterday that a day before their inauguration in January 2023, a pitbull was walking freely in the Legislature.

"Imagine an employee or member or member's child/family who could have been there in the facility unaware that a pitbull is walking freely inside the facility and gets attacked by the pitbull. This is dysfunctional, scary, unacceptable, dangerous, deadly, etc.," the Senate president said.

She said the owner of the pitbull is the same employee who is the peeping tom.

Regarding parking space issue, DeLeon Guerrero said initially, Babauta's original assignment is where Sen. Paul A. Manglona (Ind-Rota) parks now.

She said Babauta and Manglona switched parking spots on their own.

"It's the truth and no I don't control parking lots," DeLeon Guerrero said.

On April 26, 2023, the Senate president issued a memorandum addressed to Legislative Bureau director Perry John P. Tenorio, stating that it appears that some legislative members' staff are utilizing the assigned spaces for Senate members.

"This is not right and must stop immediately," said DeLeon Guerrero in the memorandum.

The president said the assigned parking slots are assigned a letter for security reasons.

DeLeon Guerrero said yesterday that the memorandum is necessary because the peeping tom parks in Babauta's assigned space which is next to her (DeLeon Guerrero).

She said the person was permitted to park in Babauta's space, but he stopped parking there when the peeping tom issue came up.

Further, she said, a senator informed her that the same individual twice peeked into her vehicle while she was sitting in her car.

DeLeon Guerrero said the same peeping tom/stalker walked twice into her office while she was alone, and stopped and just stared at her, then left.

She said the same peeping tom would look into other elected officials' offices located in the hallway outside the conference room back door.

The Senate president said, in fact, she brought this concern to a House of Representatives member whose office is being peeked onto as well.

"None of these are petty but serious issues," DeLeon Guerrero pointed out.

Babauta called the press conference in response to DeLeon Guerrero's recent decision to remove her as chairwoman of the Committee on Judiciary, Government and Law and replaced her with Sen. Karl R. King-Nabors (R-Tinian).

DeLeon Guerrero cited numerous pending bills and not holding a committee meeting for eight months in reaching out her decision. She also discussed her decision during the Senate special session on Monday.

Babauta said Tuesday that since their inauguration, there have been no leadership meetings despite repeated requests from members of the leadership.

Babauta said DeLeon Guerrero has just refused to call for a leadership meeting.

Regarding parking space, on May 2, 2023, Babauta wrote a letter to Legislative Bureau director Tenorio, stating that while DeLeon Guerrero does have the authority to assign Senate parking slots, Rule 13, Section 4 does not provide that the Senate president has the control to micromanage how the slot is used.

MAFNAS

From page 1

Mafnas is qualified to fulfill the vital responsibilities of this department.

Palacios also told Mafnas in a letter on Friday that he and Apatang are confident that she is qualified and will be an asset to the CNMI.

"Your willingness to serve our people is most appreciated," the governor said.

On April 25, 2023, Palacios withdrew the appointment of Joseph S. Rios Jr. as secretary of the Department of Commerce and designated Workers' Compensation Commission director Francisco D. Cabrera as acting Commerce secretary. Mafnas was later designated as acting Commerce secretary.

GVB

From page 1

for military personnel and their families, said Sen. Celina R. Babauta (D-Saipan) during a press conference Tuesday in her office.

"This is a familiarization tour of what beautiful Rota has to offer to military families," she said.

Babauta said she is excited for Rota as they have a packed schedule from May 15 to 17, 2024.

He said a delegation including GVB, herself, Sen. Donald M. Manglona (Ind-Rota), Reps. Edwin K. Propst (D-Saipan) and John Paul Palacios Sablan (Ind-Saipan), Rota Mayor Aubry Hocog, Tinian Mayor Edwin P. Aldan, and members of the Guam Legislature collaborated on strategic initiatives to promote the future of tourism in the region, particularly Rota.

Babauta said they were part of a first group of legislators who visited Guam last March and they engaged with the Guam Governor's Office, their legislature, and GVB, on how they can assist each other because CNMI and Guam face the same regional issues and it only makes sense to have a united voice on these issues.

She said it's the reason why GVB president and chief executive officer Carl T.C. Gutierrez extended an invitation to her, Sen. Manglona, Rep. Propst, Rep. Sablan, Rota Mayor Hocog, and Tinian Mayor Aldan to join the Japan trip from May 8 to 12, 2024.

"It was a busy trip. We were fully exhausted by the time we came back," Babauta said.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

Radewagen takes part in USCG acquisitions hearing

WASHINGTON, D.C.— Delegate Uifa'atali Amata Radewagen (R-A. Samoa) took part in a Tuesday hearing of the Homeland Security Committee's Subcommittee on Transportation and Maritime Security by invitation to participate in the congressional examination of U.S. Coast Guard acquisitions.

» Emphasizes USCG role in Indo-Pacific region

Delays in producing planned new cutters are affecting the allocation of Coast Guard resources and presence in the Indo-Pacific. Radewagen focused on the planned Offshore Patrol Cutter, which will eventually play a large role in the Pacific.

"Thank you to chairman Carlos Gimenez (R-FL) for the opportunity to be waived onto the committee for this hearing," said Radewagen. "I represent American Samoa, in the South Pacific. Our largest industry is fishing, which is at threat from Chinese IUU fishing. A larger Coast Guard presence in American Samoa is the best deterrence from IUU incursions into our EEZ."

"Every single Pacific Radewagen leader has asked for two things in the South Pacific: Coast Guard and the Peace Corps," continued Radewagen. "Today we're discussing the fleet of the future, one that can operate in the South Pacific."

In February, American Samoa was proud to host Commandant of the Coast Guard Admiral Linda Fagan, preceded by a visit of the USCGC *Harriet Lane* to Pago Pago Harbor. The USCGC *Harriet Lane* has been patrolling the Pacific under its inaugural Blue Pacific mission.

In various public comments, including a hearing last year, Radewagen has pointed out that American Samoa stands ready to host a larger permanent presence of the Coast Guard, and that the Coast Guard in American Samoa makes an enduring and effective signal of U.S. commitment to the Indo-Pacific region.

In his statement, Gimenez said, "Bringing these cutters online on time and on budget will determine whether Coast Guard will be able to meet the growing demand for their assets, manpower, and expertise. Therefore, if we want to stem the flow of narcotics into our country, stop illegal fishing by the Chinese distance water fishing fleet, or maintain a consistent, credible presence in the Arctic to deter our geopolitical adversaries, the Coast Guard acquisitions programs must deliver what Congress tasks the service to do." ***(PR)***

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Rep. Clay Higgins of Los Angeles; Rep. James Moylan of Guam; Delegate Uifa'atali Amata Radewagen of American Samoa; chair Rep. Carlos Gimenez of Florida; U.S. Coast Guard Vice Admiral Paul Thomas; ranking member Shri Thanedar of Michigan Homeland Security deputy undersecretary for Management Randolph "Tex" Allen.

CIC SPONSORS CLIENTS AT CHAMBER GOLF

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Century Insurance Co. sponsored its clients during Saipan Chamber of Commerce's 15th Annual Scholarship Golf Tournament last April 27 at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort. Century Insurance Co. general manager Gol Corpuz is seen here posing with Crowne Plaza Resort Saipan Banquets and Events director Das Krishnan and his teammates.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The Century Insurance Co. banner at the LaoLao Bay Golf & Resort.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Century Insurance Co. general manager Gol Corpuz on a golf cart.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Century Insurance Co. general manager Gol Corpuz with Ben Pelisamen of Victory Chapel who landed second place with his partner Mario Lisua.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Century Insurance Co. general manager Gol Corpuz with DPA Car Mart representative Tom "Palik" Thomson and William Retardo of Pacific Islands Club Saipan.

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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MEMBER

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EDITORIAL

How to fix America's cruel and unusual tax code

It probably escaped your attention, but the Internal Revenue Service recently piloted a program to help Americans cope with their notoriously complex tax system. Direct File was meant to help taxpayers in 12 states prepare and submit their returns electronically. Some 19 million people were eligible to use it. Thanks partly to a rollout late in the tax-preparation season, fewer than 1% of them actually did.

The IRS was pleased with the results nonetheless: Taxpayers who used the system said they liked it, according to a survey, and the idea all along was to "start small, make sure it works and then build from there." Fine. So what about next steps? "No decision has been made about the future of Direct File at this time," the agency says.

Dull as the topic of tax administration might seem, it demands far more ambition and urgency. Each year Americans spend roughly two billion hours and more than $30 billion on personal tax-preparation fees. This compliance burden falls disproportionately on the less well-off. The system's complexity also means that credits often go unclaimed; again, in relative terms, the lower-paid suffer the biggest losses. At the top of the income scale, in contrast, complications yield loophole and every loophole dictates higher taxes for the rest.

A working Direct File system would be a start, but it's the least of what's required to disentangle the mess Congress has created. Next year, legislators will have to think about tax reform as changes in the 2017 Tax Cuts and Jobs Act expire. They should use the moment to simplify the system and follow the example of many other advanced economies: Spare taxpayers the need to fill out any return at all.

Two complementary strategies would make this feasible.

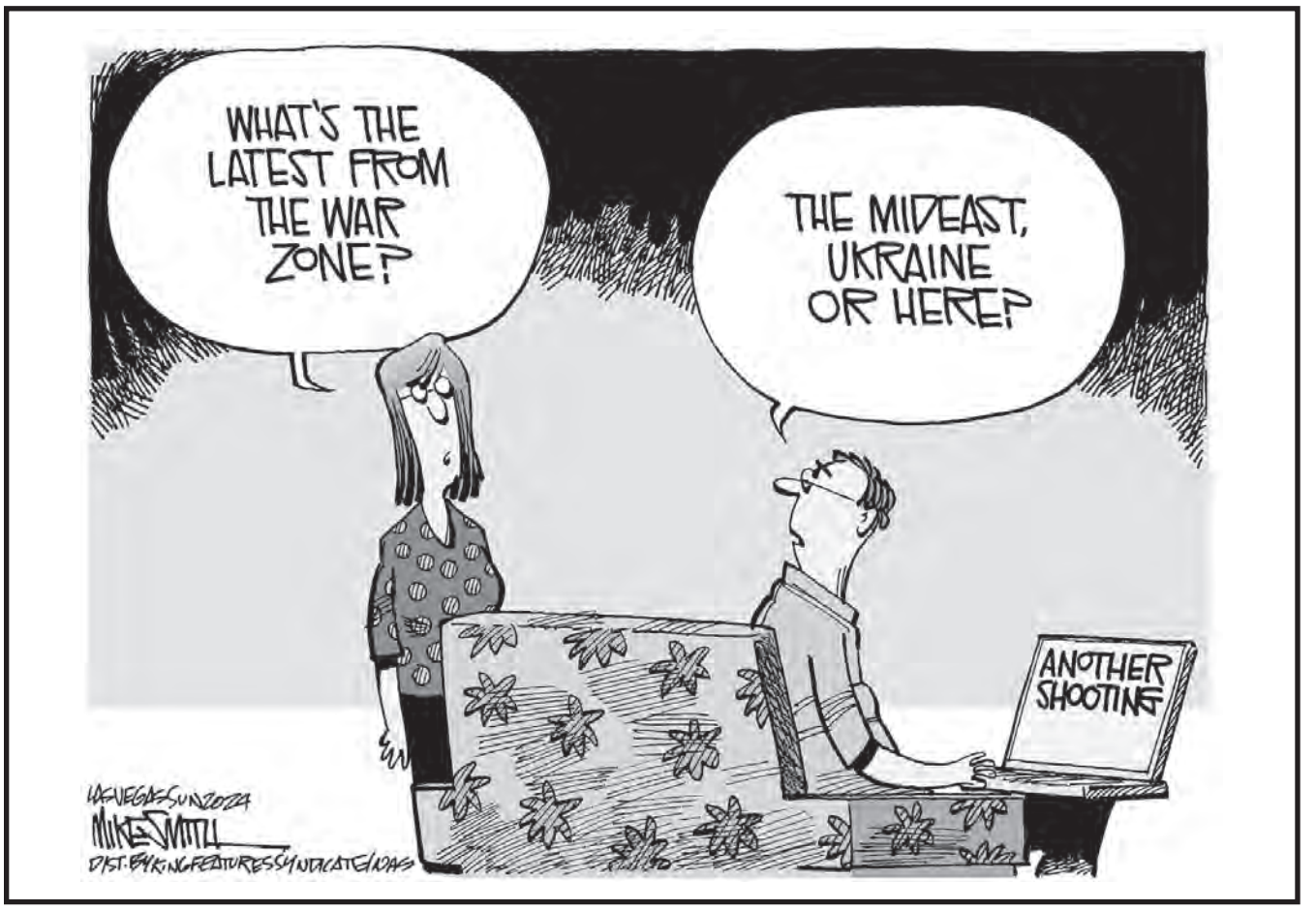
First, go one better than Direct File by tasking the IRS to pre-populate the main tax form for most taxpayers. The agency already has much, and in many cases all, of the information it needs. According to one recent study, roughly 70 million returns—upward of 40% of the total—could be accurately pre-filled.

Second, simplify the code. This is desirable in its own right, because endless accretion of complexities is self-defeating. (Each new incentive or accommodation confounds the others.) In addition, a simpler code would allow more comprehensive use of pre-filled returns. A recent report from the Brookings Institution suggests some options. To be sure, even the least ambitious of these ideas is radical by contemporary standards. It would repeal itemized deductions, preferential rates for capital gains and dividends, head-of-household filing status and the alternative minimum tax, and replace existing personal credits with refundable ones of $1,000 for each family member and a work-related credit that phases out as income rises.

A tall order, politically speaking—yet consider the benefits. By design, it would be both revenue-neutral and fairer than the current code. It would also be vastly easier for the IRS to administer and for taxpayers to understand and endure. With such a system, pre-populated returns could be standard practice.

As it stands, the U.S. system delights the tax-prep industry

See HOW on Page 7


WHAT'S THE LATEST FROM THE WAR ZONE?
THE MIDEAST, UKRAINE OR HERE?
ANOTHER SHOOTING
LAS VEGAS SUN 2024
MIKE SMITH
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Passing of the torch

Eleanor Rooselvelt once said: "The Future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams."

By DR. LAWRENCE F. CAMACHO
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Dr. Lawrence F. Camacho is the commissioner of Education and state superintendent of the CNMI Public School System. This is his keynote speech in the recent Northern Marianas College School of Education Passing of the Torch ceremony.

H*afa adai yan tirowami* to all of you, president Deleon Guerrero; vice president Eliptico; dean Cepeda; director Merar, faculty, staff, Board of Regents, distinguished guests, family, and of course to the graduates of NMC's School of Education…Biba and congratulations to all of you!

I want to start by thanking the college for inviting me to be the keynote speaker at today's "passing of the torch" ceremony. It is an honor, a privilege, and such a great opportunity for me to engage this fine group of professionals who are set to embark on yet another chapter of their personal and professional story. I'll get to the story-telling part in a moment…because I also want to say that days like this remind us of a kind of celebration, experienced by three families…

First family is the family who made you the person that you are today: parents, grandparents, teachers, relatives, and so on.

The second family celebrating is your own immediate family today who continue to support you in every possible way—you have achieved this degree because of them.

The third family is your Proa family. The college is your third family that is celebrating with you—celebrating this thing in academia…. we call student success.

But moving forward. I want to remind you of your critical role in life…and that is…the role of authorship…as in, you …are only the person who could best author your own story. Think about that for a minute.

Who would have thought that the decisions you made a long time ago during your formative years, would be the entries you figuratively made into the chapters of your story…but those years that have gone by…and here you are now.

So, my job today, is to give some advice and context on certain things you might want to consider as you move forth in your illustrious journey and this story that you are the best author for… The decisions you made all these years have brought you to this point in your life, correct? In other words, you have climbed this mountain of knowledge by way of your professors and those who guided you to this point…and what's fascinating is that you made the climb in the manner you decided to…and on the path you decided to follow…

Like many of you, I too was born and raised on this beautiful island of Saipan, and I still have vivid memories of my formative years—growing up in the '70s and '80s in that little village of San Roque to the north. Believe it or not, I still remember all of my elementary school teachers, and principals. In my heart, I still have some of those unforgettable moments I had as a young Chamorro kid—whose formation was enriched, guided, and encouraged by mom, dad, teachers, uncles, and aunts, grandma, and especially my grandfather, Gregorio T. Camacho—an influential figure in my life who now has his name inscribed in one of the elementary schools I now lead as commissioner of Education—literally the person who picked up my report cards from the school where today, I can say, my picture and his photo co-exist in the principal's office…

Two things my Grandpa taught me—don't talk unless you know what you are talking about and get educated!

So you know, my formative years also included my educational experiences at Hopwood Jr. High and at Marianas High School, where I met my "high school sweetheart" who continues to be my source of inspiration and guiding light…my wife, Gina. Right after high school, Gina and I left the island with our newborn son–to attend Pasadena City College where I received my associates degree. Enter, my transformative years…

Upon returning to Saipan with just the two-year degree from PCC, I decided to once again pick up my family (by this time, Gina and I had all of our three kids—who by the way have grown up and are now quite successful in their own professions). We moved to Guam and I obtained my bachelor's degree at the University of Guam.

Upon graduation, I picked up my family once again–to join the ranks in regular army as a young commissioned officer—which opened many doors for me and my family…advancing through the ranks with operational and career broadening experiences, deploying twice into combat, leaving my family for more than 12 months at a time, and being assigned overseas— these experiences elevated my passion for leadership and this phenomenon called "service to a cause greater than self."

In my transformative years, I developed to be this lifelong learner—the best part is that even with three master's degrees and a doctorate…along with vast military education…I learned a great deal about myself, about my surroundings, about other societies that existed outside of the United States…about education or lack thereof, especially in those countries destroyed from war…

But that was my story…which I reflect on every so often; al-

See PASSING on Page 7

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Being a porn star doesn't make Stormy Daniels a liar. Trump's lawyer should have known that

By CARLA HALL
Los Angeles Times

When Donald Trump's attorney Susan Necheles tried to discredit the adult film actor Stormy Daniels on the stand during Trump's hush money trial, she took this absurd position: Assume a sex worker has no integrity.

"You have a lot of experience making phony stories about sex appear to be real?" Necheles asked.

"Wow," Daniels said. "That's not how I would put it. The sex in the films is very much real, just like what happened to me in that room."

Daniels' response was smart and quick and left Necheles trying to catch up after her question backfired. The defense attorney should have known it would. The trademark of porn is real sex. And the idea that working in porn automatically makes you a liar or some amoral person is deeply offensive—a vestige of antiquated attitudes about sex work and what women, in particular, should and should not do with their lives.

"That room" Daniels mentioned referred to the Lake Tahoe hotel room where, she says, she and Trump had consensual sex in 2006. At issue in the court case is whether Trump falsified business records to cover up what prosecutors say are reimbursements of hush money payments made to Daniels in an illegal attempt to influence the 2016 election. Trump denies the whole thing, including that he had sex with Daniels. So her credibility is something his lawyer wants to chip away at.

Daniels has been successful as an actor, a director and a writer in the adult film industry, and she is unapologetic about her work and her ambition. Her integrity doesn't rest on whether her industry is liked or despised. Hopefully the jurors will get that. I hold her in higher regard than I do the CEOs in respected industries whom we have assumed, based on the prestige of their position, were honest and honorable only to find out they weren't. Disgraced—and imprisoned—CEOs Elizabeth Holmes and Sam Bankman-Fried come to mind. So much for assumptions.

Daniels did try to sell her story to news outlets before Trump and his then-lawyer, Michael Cohen, allegedly, came along with a hush money offer of $130,000. So she's transactional. (So is Trump.) That isn't evidence of lying. Necheles is also drilling down on supposed inconsistencies in Daniels' accounts of the evening she spent with Trump. That's fair game.

Accusing Daniels of concocting the whole sex story with Trump because she's a porn star who has sex on screen for a living is not.

PASSING

From page 6

though, not as often as I dream about the future and more importantly as I relish in the present…in other words, I look back into the past like I do when I look into the rearview mirror of my car—just enough to realize what is behind me and to make sure that my blind spot is clear when I decide to switch lanes as I continue down my journey.

What does this mean? This means I get clarity when I look instead into the windshield that is in front of me—the broader view…this clear path ahead…and so I argue that we should view our story in this way…in other words, reflecting on your past is a good thing…but what's better is when you relish in the moment and make adjustments so you can get after your big dreams…

OK, so, I gave you a glimpse of two sections and a couple of chapters out of my story…my formative and transformative years…but this is your moment… and so, I challenge you to think about your journey…what's ahead of you…and how YOU will set the course in your own personal story…

As a matter of fact, here you are already setting the course with your collegiate experience here at NMC…You see, everyone has their reasons for seeking higher education…I've had mine and you got yours…but do we know the foundations of higher education?

I would argue that this concept dates back to the ancient Greek period when Socrates, Plato, Aristotle, and other philosophers were roaming around Greece…this was the time when humanity's intellectual capacity was on the rise… during that period, there were many questions, debates…so much reasoning…and the search for truth…about the many things in life, the universe, and so many other nuances…There was a lot of Sophias floating around the atmosphere. Sophia is the Greek word for wisdom, knowledge, and the search for truth…There were also the Sophists–people in the corner who took a little bit of Sophia, cleverly spun them around, and fooled people so they could reach the top of the republic's leadership scheme.

Philo is the Greek word for "the love of, or the desire to have more of." So, on the other spectrum you had these kinds of people who challenged the Sophists–when you combine Philo with Sophia, you get these people–the philosophers. In the midst of all this, Socrates proclaimed that democracy was a bad system for society…because if the Sophists were good at fooling the people, they would be so popular and reach the top–then they would have a corrupt government. Plato agreed with Socrates, his teacher, but he offered a different perspective…stating that if philosopher kings were created, democracy would flourish because philosopher kings would have received a higher level of Sophia–what he really meant was this idea of higher education…

So he created the academy–the safe space for philosophers to come and reason, debate, discover, search for truth, research…enter, the birth of higher education–the safe space in which you, ladies and gentlemen had benefited from as graduates of NMC.

So, you made the right call and went after that higher education, right? Indeed, another good entry into your story…crafting this chapter based on your valued educational experiences here at NMC…eventually earning the degree–the validation of your achievement…and of your hard work and dedication to your growth as an educator…

So, in front of us, we have CNMI's future…CNMI's newest group of educators! I filled with excitement…but from one educator to another, I sincerely hope you are motivated, ready, and willing…to share your newfound knowledge with the rest of the world…to share this new version of you, this leader, the soon to be solver of the many problems we have, and the designer of our Commonwealth's future…I can already see the contributions you will make…

But I ask that you please understand your role in those chapters of the new you … understand your purpose…know your "why" and then allow yourself to flourish…knowing that you still have all the support network you can get when you need it most. But I ask that you go out and move mountains …the torch is now passed on to you!

What I really like about your generation is that you have redefined the meaning of success…where it no longer means the accumulation of wealth and possession….rather, it has evolved…to be this…sense of accomplishment and sense of purpose… of self-worth, and of merit and how you fit in this ecosystem we operate, live, and play in…and as you move forward to realize success, I want to give you a simple advice through a story I learned from Master Shing He Yi whose presentation I came across when I was watching TedXTalk one day…

The story goes…there was a young man who had a rather large-sized mountain in front of him that he wanted to climb…but he had no sense of direction…nor did he have the visualization about this adventure he knew he had to pursue…so he wondered what would be like to climb that mountain and what would he see if he reached the peak of the mountain…so when the day came, he started his journey, and on the way, he met the first traveler and asked, "how did you get up what mountain and what did you see at the top?"

Accordingly, the traveler shared his path and described what he saw from the top. But the man thought…goodness! The way the traveler described his journey sounds very exhausting…so he decided to find a different way to climb…and as he continued to walk at the foot of the mountain, he met the next traveler who had also just returned from reaching the top of the mountain…So the man asked this second traveler, "how did you climb up that mountain and what did you see at the top?" The traveler shared his story…but the man was still not determined on which direction to take, and asked 30 more people who came down from reaching the top of the mountain…and when he finished talking to all of them, he thought to himself… "now that so many people have shared with me the paths they took, and especially what they saw from the top, I do not need to climb anymore."

How unfortunate that this man never went on that journey…To conclude this story, each individual needs to find his/her most suitable way to climb that mountain, second, there is the possibility for so much information to be shared with just words…and description…but it is impossible, as Master Shing explains, to share the experience of clarity that you get when you are standing on that peak by yourself…

Clarity, he explains means to see more clear and you see more clear, everything becomes more apparent and then you somehow get it…with clarity, you have great visualization of the truth…you realize Philo and you gain Sophia…and when you see more clear, perhaps you will not be fooled by the sophists…because seeing clearly means you can distinguish for yourself which is the proper direction to take and which decisions to make in order to reach your goals and aspirations…your destination.

Ladies and gentlemen, you have gone on this journey here at NMC…and you have received so much knowledge and wisdom…you made that decision and you crafted this chapter…with the help of this institution, you have transformer yourself…and since you are about to close this chapter and open a new page for your next one…I want to ask…

What does your next chapter look like? How will you climb another mountain? What decisions will you make to transfer your own knowledge of the mountain you just climbed…how will inspire others who are also curious about your journey, or the paths made by others on the mountains that stood in front of them?

How will you pass the torch that has been passed on to you? This idea of passing the torch is a time-honored tradition in making sure that important lessons learned in the profession are advanced…and today, is an opportunity for you to transfer the knowledge you gained to the many kids you will be charged with…to guide them in their formative years…

Here's my challenge to you …

Be the servant leader who guides and encourages those you are charged with as an educator…to understand not only the path you have taken, but to enable them to find within their own curiosity the meaning of life, and why their own authorship is important…but even more so, for them to see clearly how to discover their own direction and path to take…as they travel to reach the peak so they can find their own clarity…I ask that you guide them to be good authors of their own story by being the exemplar educators. Turn them into lifelong learners!

In closing…I urge you to never forget your past…just do not dwell on it…rather, embrace and appreciate your present—this moment of your life, and dream big…let's dream for our students…at the end of the day I urge you to please make sure to guide forth the next generation—those who will be like you, educated, professionals, problem-solvers, and designers of our Commonwealth's future!

As we say in PSS: Students First, Educators Always!

I wish you all the best, biba, congratulations, and thank you!

HOW

From page 6

but imposes enormous avoidable costs on the country's citizens. It's abysmal by international standards and violates the Eighth Amendment's prohibition against cruel and unusual punishment. Next year, changes to the tax code will be unavoidable. For once, maybe Congress can come up with a reform worth the name.

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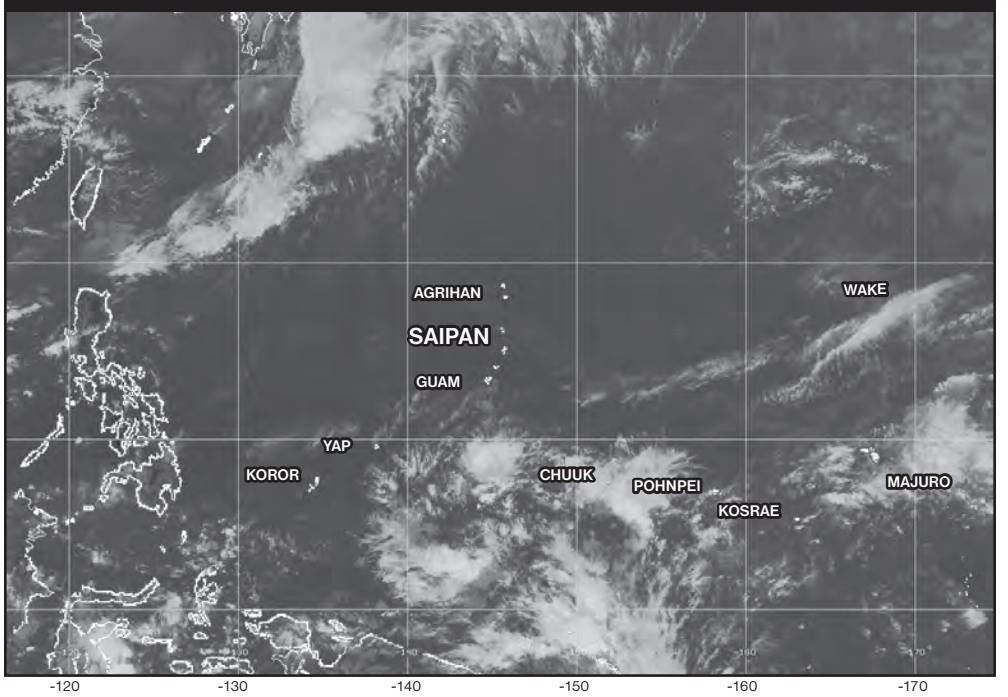
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with a 20 percent chance of showers.	Mostly cloudy. A 30 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy. A 30 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.	Mostly cloudy. A 30 percent chance of showers and a slight chance of thunderstorms.
87° 79°	87° 79°	87° 78°	87° 78°	87° 78°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 6:58 AM WEDNESDAY, MAY 15, 2024

Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Satellite imagery showing partly cloudy skies with spotty trade showers in the southern Guam waters. Latest altimetry data is indicating seas of 5 to 7 feet east of the Marianas.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: https://www.weather.gov/gum/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	91° / 82°
Palau	Mostly Cloudy	88° / 80°
Yap	Partly Cloudy	90° / 80°
Chuuk	Cloudy	85° / 80°
Pohnpei	Cloudy	88° / 81°
Kosrae	Mostly Cloudy	87° / 80°
Majuro	Cloudy	84° / 81°

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	5:48 AM	6:38 PM
Friday	5:47 AM	6:39 PM
Saturday	5:47 AM	6:39 PM
Sunday	5:47 AM	6:39 PM
Monday	5:47 AM	6:40 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	-	1:00 AM	12:48 PM
Friday	-	1:36 AM	1:35 PM
Saturday	-	2:09 AM	2:20 PM
Sunday	-	2:42 AM	3:06 PM
Monday	-	3:14 AM	3:52 PM

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Mostly Cloudy	69° / 59°
Beijing	Fair	90° / 57°
Hong Kong	Fair	82° / 72°
Honolulu	Showers	85° / 71°
London	Mostly Cloudy	63° / 45°
Los Angeles	Sunny	79° / 62°
Manila	Partly Cloudy	94° / 83°
Melbourne	Sunny	63° / 45°
Miami	Clear	87° / 82°
New York	Light Rain	70° / 55°
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	76° / 62°
Paris	Sunny	64° / 45°
Busan	Rain	64° / 61°
Rome	Mostly Cloudy	77° / 61°
Salem	Mostly Sunny	88° / 64°
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	63° / 52°
Seoul	Cloudy	77° / 52°
Tokyo	Mostly Cloudy	76° / 58°
Washington, DC	Light Rain	69° / 62°

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:22 AM	High Tide	1.83
9:26 AM	Low Tide	1.21
1:26 PM	High Tide	1.45
8:34 PM	Low Tide	0.48

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF MAY 7, 2024

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA076	9:50AM	10:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN- NARITA (NRT)

UA824	11:40AM	2:25PM	1, 3, 5

GUAM-MANILA (MNL)

PR 111	5:55AM	7:55AM	Daily
UA193	6:55PM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Palau
UA183	7:15PM	9:10PM	Daily

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

7C3403/2305	4:45AM	10:20PM	Daily
UA076/183	9:50AM	9:10PM	Daily via Guam
UA076/193	9:50AM	10:55PM	2, 5 via Guam, Palau

SAIPAN-INCHEON (ICN)

TW308	3:15AM	7:00AM	Daily
7C3405	4:10PM	7:45PM	Daily
7C3403	4:45AM	8:35AM	Daily

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX77	4:05AM	7:00AM	1, 5

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA174	8:00AM	8:45AM	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

UA825	5:30PM	9:55PM	2, 4, 7

MANILA (MNL)-GUAM

PR110	10:30PM	4:25AM+1	Daily
UA184	10:25PM	4:10AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7
UA192	10:25PM	6:15AM+1	2, 5 via Palau
UA184	11:50PM	5:35AM+1	2, 5

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA192/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Palau, Guam
UA184/174	10:25PM	8:45AM+1	1, 3, 4, 6,7 via Guam
UA184/174	11:50PM	8:45AM+1	2, 5 via Guam
7C2306/3406	11:10PM	3:10PM+1	Daily

INCHEON (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3406	9:30AM	3:10PM	Daily
TW307	8:15PM	1:40AM+1	Daily
7C3404	10:10PM	3:40AM+1	Daily

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

HX76	7:35PM	2:35AM+1	4, 7

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); UA United Airlines; PR, Philippine Airlines; TW, T'Way Air; OZ, Asiana Airlines; 7C, Jeju Air; BX, Air Busan • ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JANUARY 2, 2024

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1301	SAIPAN	ROTA	08:30	09:00	Daily
1302	SAIPAN	ROTA	10:30	11:00	Daily
1303	SAIPAN	ROTA	15:30	16:00	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3101	ROTA	SAIPAN	9:30	10:00	Daily
3102	ROTA	SAIPAN	11:30	12:00	Saturday & Sunday
3103	ROTA	SAIPAN	13:30	14:00	Monday To Friday
3104	ROTA	SAIPAN	16:30	17:00	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
3401	ROTA	GUAM	11:30	12:00	Monday To Friday

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
4301	GUAM	ROTA	12:30	13:00	Monday To Friday

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
1201	SAIPAN	TINIAN	7:30	7:45	Daily
1202	SAIPAN	TINIAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
1203	SAIPAN	TINIAN	9:00	9:15	Daily
1204	SAIPAN	TINIAN	10:00	10:15	Daily
1206	SAIPAN	TINIAN	14:00	14:15	Daily
1207	SAIPAN	TINIAN	15:00	15:15	Daily
1208	SAIPAN	TINIAN	16:00	16:15	Daily
1209	SAIPAN	TINIAN	17:00	17:15	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	FROM	TO	DEPARTS	ARRIVES	FREQUENCY
2101	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:00	8:15	Daily
2102	TINIAN	SAIPAN	8:30	8:45	Daily
2103	TINIAN	SAIPAN	9:30	9:45	Daily
2104	TINIAN	SAIPAN	10:30	10:45	Daily
2106	TINIAN	SAIPAN	14:30	14:45	Daily
2107	TINIAN	SAIPAN	15:30	15:45	Daily
2108	TINIAN	SAIPAN	16:30	16:45	Daily
2109	TINIAN	SAIPAN	17:30	17:45	Daily

Business

TikTok content creators sue US gov't

Eight TikTok content creators sued the U.S. government on Tuesday, issuing another challenge to the new federal law that would ban the popular social media platform nationwide if its China-based parent company doesn't sell its stakes within a year.

Attorneys for the creators argue in the lawsuit that the law violates users' First Amendment rights to free speech, echoing arguments made by TikTok in a separate lawsuit filed by the company last week. The legal challenge could end up before the Supreme Court.

The complaint filed Tuesday comes from a diverse set of content creators, including a Texas-based rancher who has previously appeared in a TikTok commercial, a creator in Arizona who uses TikTok to show his daily life and spread awareness about LGBTQ issues, as well as a business owner who sells skincare products on TikTok Shop, the e-commerce arm of the platform.

The lawsuit says the creators "rely on TikTok to express themselves, learn, advocate for causes, share opinions, create communities, and even make a living."

"They have found their voices, amassed significant audiences, made new friends, and encountered new and different ways of thinking—all because of TikTok's novel

AP

The TikTok logo is displayed on a smartphone screen in Tokyo on Sept. 28, 2020.

way of hosting, curating, and disseminating speech," it added, arguing the new law would deprive them and the rest of the country "of this distinctive means of expression and communication."

A spokesperson for TikTok said the company was covering the legal costs for the lawsuit, which was filed in a Washington appeals court. It is being led by the same law firm that represented creators who challenged Montana's statewide ban on the platform last year. In November, a judge blocked that law from going into effect.

The Department of Justice said that the legislation that could ban TikTok "addresses critical national security concerns in a manner that is consistent with the First Amendment and other constitutional limitations. We look forward to defending the legislation in court."

The federal law comes at a time of intense strategic rivalry between the U.S. and China on a host of issues and as the two butt heads over sensitive geopolitical topics like China's support for Russia in its invasion of Ukraine. U.S. lawmakers and administration officials have aired concerns about how well TikTok can protect users' data from Chinese authorities and have argued its algorithm could be used to spread pro-China propaganda, which TikTok disputes.

Under the law, TikTok's parent company ByteDance would be required to sell the platform to an approved buyer within nine months. If a sale is in progress, the company will get a three-month extension to complete the deal. ***(AP)***

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Biden hikes tariffs on Chinese EVs, solar cells, steel, aluminum—and snipes at Trump

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Joe Biden slapped major new tariffs on Chinese electric vehicles, advanced batteries, solar cells, steel, aluminum and medical equipment on Tuesday, taking potshots at Donald Trump along the way as he embraced a strategy that's increasing friction between the world's two largest economies. The Democratic president said that Chinese government subsidies ensure the nation's companies don't have to turn a profit, giving them an unfair advantage in global trade. "American workers can outwork and outcompete anyone as long as the competition is fair," Biden said in the White House Rose Garden. "But for too long, it hasn't been fair. For years, the Chinese government has poured state money into Chinese companies ... it's not competition, it's cheating." The tariffs come in the middle of a heated campaign between Biden and Trump, his Republican predecessor, to show who's tougher on China. In a nod to the presidential campaign, Biden recognized lawmakers from Michigan in his remarks and spoke about workers in Pennsylvania and Wisconsin, all battleground states in November's election. Asked to respond to Trump's comments that China was eating America's lunch, Biden said of his rival, "He's been feeding them a long time." The Democrat said Trump had failed to crack down on Chinese trade abuses as he had pledged he would do during his presidency.

Walmart lays off hundreds of employees and requires others to relocate

BENTONVILLE, Ark. (AP)—Walmart on Tuesday announced layoffs affecting several hundred jobs at the retail giant's campus offices. It also said it will require most remote workers and personnel in its Dallas, Atlanta and Toronto offices to relocate to its primary offices in Bentonville, Arkansas; Hoboken, New Jersey; and the San Francisco Bay Area. The news, conveyed via a Walmart staff memo provided to The Associated Press, said the relocations will serve the goal of "bringing more of us together more often." The memo likewise noted that being together in person "makes us better and helps us to collaborate, innovate and move even faster." The memo did not give a reason for the layoffs beyond stating that "some parts of our business have made changes" that will result in job losses. A Walmart spokesperson did not immediately reply to questions regarding the reason for the layoffs and why Walmart is working to consolidate other office jobs in Arkansas, New Jersey and California.

Nation

CONGRESSIONAL AIDES SAY:

US sending $1B more in weapons, ammo to Israel

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Biden administration has told key lawmakers it would send more than $1 billion in additional arms and ammunition to Israel, three congressional aides said Tuesday. But it was not immediately known how soon the weapons would be delivered.

It's the first arms shipment to Israel to be revealed since the administration put another arms transfer, consisting of 3,500 bombs of up to 2,000 pounds each, on hold this month. The Biden administration, citing concern for civilian casualties in Gaza, has said it paused that bomb transfer to keep Israel from using those particular munitions in its offensive in the crowded southern Gaza city of Rafah.

The package disclosed Tuesday includes about $700 million for tank ammunition, $500 million in tactical vehicles and $60 million in mortar rounds, the congressional aides said. They spoke on condition of anonymity to discuss an arms transfer that has not yet been made public.

There was no immediate indication when the arms would be sent. Two congressional aides said the shipment is not part of the long-delayed foreign aid package that Congress passed and President Joe Biden signed last month. It wasn't known if the shipment was the latest tranche from an existing arms sale or something new.

The Biden administration has come under criticism from both sides of the political spectrum over its military support for Israel's now seven-month-old war against Hamas in Gaza—at a time when Biden is battling for reelection against former President Donald Trump.

Some of Biden's fellow Democrats have pushed him to limit transfers of offensive weapons to Israel to pressure the U.S. ally to do more to protect Palestinian civilians. Protests on college campuses around the U.S. have driven home the message this spring.

Republican lawmakers have seized on the administration's pause on the bomb transfers, saying any lessening of U.S. support for Israel — its closest ally in the Middle East—weakens that country as it fights Hamas and other Iran-backed groups. In the House, they are planning to advance a bill this week to mandate the delivery of offensive weaponry for Israel.

Despite the onetime suspension of a bomb shipment, Biden and administration officials have made clear they will continue other weapons deliveries and overall military support to Israel, which is the largest recipient of U.S. military aid.

Biden will see to it that "Israel has all of the military means it needs to defend itself against all of its enemies, including Hamas," national security spokesman John Kirby told reporters Monday. "For him, this is very straightforward: He's going to continue to provide Israel with all of capabilities it needs, but he does not want certain categories of American weapons used in a particular type of operation in a particular place. And again, he has been clear and consistent with that."

Mike Johnson assails Trump's felony trial in remarkable visit outside courthouse

U.S. House Speaker Mike Johnson assailed the hush money case against Donald Trump Tuesday as an illegitimate "sham," becoming the highest-ranking Republican to show up at court, embrace the former president's claims of political persecution and attack the U.S. system of justice.

It was a remarkable moment in modern American politics: The House speaker amplifying Trump's defense and turning the Republican Party against the federal and state legal systems that are foundational to the U.S. government and a cornerstone of democracy.

Johnson, who is second in line for the presidency, called the court system "corrupt."

Outside the New York courthouse, he decried "this ridiculous prosecution that is not about justice." He said, "It's all about politics."

The speaker is leading a growing list of Republican lawmakers who are criticizing the American judicial system as they rally to Trump's side, appearing at the courthouse to defend the party's presumptive presidential nominee. Trump is accused of having arranged secret payments to a porn actress to hide negative stories during his successful 2016 campaign for president.

With Trump stuck in court and barred by a judge's gag order from criticizing witnesses or certain elements of the case, Johnson and the lawmakers are taking it upon themselves to attack the proceedings, now in a fourth week of witness testimony. They're using the trial as a de facto campaign stop as they work to return the former president to the White House.

In portraying the case against Trump as politically motivated, the Republicans are also laying the groundwork to dismiss its significance should the jury convict, and for potential challenges to the fall election, a rematch with President Joe Biden, a Democrat.

Johnson was a chief architect of Trump's efforts to challenge the 2020 presidential results ahead of the Jan. 6, 2021, mob assault on the U.S. Capitol, and last week he called the hush money trial and the other election-year cases against Trump a "borderline criminal conspiracy."

"It is election interference," Johnson said Tuesday, insisting he was appearing on his own to back Trump, whom he called a friend. "And the American people are not going to let this stand."

Unlike other Republicans showing up to show their support, Johnson did not enter the courtroom where Trump is on trial, but dashed back to Washington to open the House chamber for the day.

Later at the Capitol, Johnson repeated the Republican Party's claims of the justice system being "weaponized" against Trump and said Americans are "losing faith" in it. ***(AP)***

World

Putin to make state visit to China this week

BEIJING (AP)—Russian President Vladimir Putin will make a two-day state visit to China this week, the Chinese Foreign Ministry said Tuesday, in the latest show of unity between the two authoritarian allies against the U.S.-led Western liberal global order.

Putin will meet Chinese leader Xi Jinping during his visit starting on Thurday, the ministry said, saying the two leaders would discuss "cooperation in various fields of bilateral relations ... as well as international and regional issues of common concern." No details were mentioned.

AP

Chinese President Xi Jinping, right, and Russian President Vladimir Putin pose for a photo prior to their talks on the sidelines of the Belt and Road Forum in Beijing, China, on Wednesday, Oct. 18, 2023.

The Kremlin in a statement confirmed the trip and said Putin was going on Xi's invitation. It said that this will be Putin's first foreign trip since he was sworn in as president and began his fifth term in office.

China has backed Russia politically in the conflict in Ukraine and has continued to export machine tools, electronics and other items seen as contributing to the Russian war effort, without actually exporting weaponry.

China is also a major export market for energy supplies that keep the Kremlin's coffers full.

China has sought to project itself as a neutral party in the conflict, but has declared a "no limits" relationship with Russia in opposition to the West. The sides have also held a series of joint military drills and China has consistently opposed economic sanctions against Russia in response to its now two-year-old campaign of conquest against Ukraine.

The two continent-sized authoritarian states are increasingly in dispute with democracies and NATO while seeking to gain influence in Africa, the Middle East and South America.

Putin's visit comes just days ahead of Monday's inauguration of William Lai Ching-te as the next president of Taiwan, the self-governing island democracy that China claims as its own territory and threatens to annex by force if necessary.

Xi returned last week from a five-day visit to Europe, including stops in Hungary and Serbia, countries viewed as close to Russia. The trip, Xi's first to the continent in five years, was seen as an attempt to increase China's influence and drive a wedge between the EU and NATO on one side, and a yet-to-be-defined bloc of authoritarian nations on the other underpinned by Chinese economic influence that has been wavering amid a housing crisis and dramatically slower domestic economic growth.

Israelis mark subdued Independence Day under shadow of war in Gaza

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP)—The grills were fired up, the blankets were spread across the grass, the smoke was pungent from sizzling slabs of meat. As in previous years, Israelis marked Independence Day with barbecues in parks across the country. Usually, parties crush so close that not even a tuft of grass is visible between the picnic blankets as Hebrew techno music reverberates through the trees from dueling speakers.

But this year, the day parties Tuesday were smaller and quieter, with far fewer celebrants, in the shadow of the war in Gaza and immediately after the country marked an emotional Memorial Day. Families grappled with their desire to mark Independence Day even as the country is facing a drawn-out war and one of its most difficult tests in decades.

"It's important to us to show Hamas that we are strong and our country is important to us, and we still go out and we still live our lives," said Shiri Simon, a computer programmer from the ultra-Orthodox city of Bnei Barak. But the thought of the more than 100 hostages being held in Gaza, along with the remains of 30 others, and the soldiers killed and injured in the ongoing fighting was never far from her mind. "The two things can coexist, it doesn't necessarily contradict," she said.

Some 1,200 people were killed in Israel during Hamas' cross-border raid on Oct. 7, when thousands of militants rampaged across southern Israeli military bases and small communities next to the Gaza border. The attack sparked the war, now in its eighth month, which has killed more than 35,000 Palestinians, most of them women and children, according to local health officials.

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WORLD BRIEFS

11 people die in shootings in small town in southern Mexico state of Chiapas, prosecutors say

MERIDA, Mexico (AP)—Eleven people were killed Tuesday in mass shootings in a small town in the southern Mexico state of Chiapas, the state prosecutor's office said. The office said the shooting occurred in the township of Chicomuselo, an area known as a trafficking route for migrant and drug smuggling that has been hit by cartel turf battles in recent months. The township—and the outlying hamlet of Morelia, where the killings occurred—is in a sparsely populated area near Mexico's border with Guatemala. There have been confrontations between drug cartels in the area as recently as Monday, but at least some of the victims of Tuesday's shootings appeared to be simply residents of the town. The border area of Chiapas has been plagued by violence as the rival Sinaloa and Jalisco New Generation cartels battle for territory. Thousands of people have been displaced as the cartels work to control migrant, drug and weapons smuggling routes and forcibly recruit locals.

Filipino activists, fishermen sail in 100-boat flotilla to disputed shoal guarded by China

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A flotilla of about 100 mostly small fishing boats led by Filipino activists sailed Wednesday to a disputed shoal in the South China Sea, where Beijing's coast guard and suspected militia ships have used powerful water cannons to ward off what they regard as intruders. The Philippine coast guard and navy deployed one patrol ship each to keep watch from a distance on the activists and fishermen, who set off on wooden boats with bamboo outriggers to assert Manila's sovereignty over the Scarborough Shoal. Dozens of journalists joined the three-day voyage. Activists and volunteers, including a Roman Catholic priest, belonging to a nongovernment coalition called Atin Ito—Tagalog for This is Ours—planned to float small territorial buoys and distribute food packs and fuel to Filipino fishermen near the shoal, organizers said, adding they were prepared for contingencies. "Our mission is peaceful based on international law and aimed at asserting our sovereign rights," said Rafaela David, a lead organizer. "We will sail with determination, not provocation, to civilianize the region and safeguard our territorial integrity." In December, David's group with boatloads of fishermen also tried to sail to another disputed shoal but cut short the trip after being tailed by a Chinese ship. China effectively seized the Scarborough Shoal, a triangle-shaped atoll with a vast fishing lagoon ringed by mostly submerged coral outcrops, by surrounding it with its coast guard ships after a tense 2012 standoff with Philippine government ships. Angered by China's action, the Philippine government brought the disputes to international arbitration in 2013 and largely won with a tribunal in The Hague ruling three years later that China's expansive claims based on historical grounds in the busy seaway were invalid under the 1982 U.N. Convention on the Law of the Sea.

Life & Style

Miniature poodle named Sage wins Westminster Kennel Club dog show

NEW YORK (AP)—It was a Sage bet.

A miniature poodle named Sage won the top prize Tuesday night at the Westminster Kennel Club dog show, an event that often has proven to be a poodle's realm.

It was the 11th triumph for poodles of various sizes in the United States' most prestigious canine event—only wire fox terriers have won more—and it was the second best in show win for handler Kaz Hosaka. He led another miniature poodle, Spice, to the trophy in 2002 and said this year's Westminster would be his last.

"No words," he said in the ring to describe his reaction to Sage's win before supplying a few: "So happy—exciting."

Striding briskly and proudly around the ring, the inky-black poodle "gave a great performance for me," added Hosaka, who said he'd been competing at Westminster for 45 years.

Sage bested six other finalists to take best in show. Second went to Mercedes, a German shepherd whose handler, Kent Boyles, also has won the trophy before.

Others in the final round included Comet, a shih tzu who won the big American Kennel Club National Championship last year; Monty, a giant schnauzer who arrived at Westminster as the nation's top-ranked dog and was a Westminster finalist last year; Louis, an Afghan hound; Micah, a black cocker spaniel; and Frankie, a colored bull terrier.

AP

Sage, a miniature poodle, poses for photos after winning best in show at 148th Westminster Kennel Club dog show Tuesday, May 14, 2024, at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center in New York.

In an event where all competitors are champions in the sport's point system, winning can depend on subtleties and a standout turn at the USTA Billie Jean King National Tennis Center, home of the U.S. Open tennis tournament.

The final lineup was "excellent, glorious," best in show judge Rosalind Kramer said.

To Monty's handler and co-owner, Katie Bernardin, "just to be in the ring with everyone else is an honor."

"We all love our dogs. We're trying our best," she said in the ring after Monty's semifinal win. "A stallion" of a dog, he's solid, powerful and "very spirited," said Bernardin of Chaplin, Connecticut.

Movie armorer appeals conviction in fatal shooting of cinematographer by Baldwin

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP)—A movie weapons armorer is appealing her conviction for involuntary manslaughter in the fatal shooting of a cinematographer by Alec Baldwin on the set of the Western film "Rust," according to court documents released Tuesday.

A defense attorney filed the shortly worded appeal notice as Hannah Gutierrez-Reed serves an 18-month sentence at a New Mexico penitentiary for women. Her attorneys have 30 days to submit detailed arguments.

Prosecutors blame Gutierrez-Reed for unwittingly bringing live ammunition onto the set of "Rust," where it was expressly prohibited, and for failing to follow basic gun-safety protocols. A jury convicted her in state court in March.

Baldwin, the lead actor and co-producer of the film, was pointing a gun at cinematographer Halyna Hutchins during a rehearsal when the gun went off, killing her and wounding director Joel Souza.

Baldwin has pleaded not guilty to a charge of involuntary manslaughter and says he pulled back the hammer—but not the trigger—and the gun fired. His trial is scheduled for July.

Gutierrez-Reed was acquitted of an evidence tampering charge at trial, and still confronts separate court proceedings on allegations she carried a firearm into a bar in downtown Santa Fe.

A New Mexico judge last month found that Gutierrez-Reed's recklessness on the "Rust" set amounted to a serious violent offense, noting few indications of genuine remorse in the death of cinematographer Halyna Hutchins.

Gutierrez-Reed said at a sentencing hearing she had tried to do her best on the set despite not having "proper time, resources and staffing," and that she was not the monster that people have made her out to be. Judge Mary Marlowe Sommer said the maximum sentence was appropriate.

King Charles III unveils his first official portrait since his coronation

LONDON (AP)—King Charles III has unveiled the first portrait of the monarch completed since he assumed the throne, a vivid image that depicts him in the bright red uniform of the Welsh Guards against a background of similar hues.

The larger-than-life painting by artist Jonathan Yeo captures the king with his hands clasped atop the hilt of his sword and a butterfly flitting above his right shoulder. Charles got his first look at the canvas Tuesday at Buckingham Palace.

AP

Artist Jonathan Yeo, left, and Britain's King Charles III at the unveiling of Yeo's portrait of the King, in the blue drawing room at Buckingham Palace, in London, Tuesday May 14, 2024.

Yeo began the portrait more than a year before Charles became king, with a sitting at the then-Prince of Wales' Highgrove estate in June 2021. The last sitting took place in November 2023 at Clarence House, one of the king's residences in London.

"When I started this project, His Majesty The King was still His Royal Highness The Prince of Wales, and much like the butterfly I've painted hovering over his shoulder, this portrait has evolved as the subject's role in our public life has transformed," Yeo said.

The portrait, which is approximately 8 1/2 by 6 1/2 feet, will be on display at the Philip Mould Gallery in London from May 16 to June 14. From the end of August, it will be displayed at Drapers' Hall across town.

The portrait was commissioned to celebrate Charles' 50 years as a member of the Drapers' Company, which was set up more than 600 years ago as a trade association for wool merchants.

Philanthropy came to be part of their mission and the company is now a grant-giving body.

Gifts given by in-law look awfully familiar

DEAR ABBY: I recently married "John," the love of my life. I have a great relationship with my mother-in-law, "Sarah." She and my father-in-law are retired and well-off financially. For each special occasion, John and I thoughtfully select gifts for his parents, and we have spent extra to ensure that our gifts convey our love and appreciation for them.

The problem is, Sarah gifts us trash, literally. On several occasions, we have received broken items in random boxes, items with missing pieces and used items, including kitchen and cooking utensils. This happens every holiday. She has also gifted our child secondhand toys and clothes, most of which were already missing pieces or were several sizes too small.

After talking to other family members, I learned that Sarah has been gifting junk for years, but her family members have never addressed the issue with her for fear of upsetting her. My sister-in-law told me she has witnessed Sarah dig items out of her basement and wrap them as gifts.

Abby, this leaves a terrible taste in my mouth and has led me to feel a slight resentment toward Sarah. I believe her actions are disrespectful and in poor taste. I don't want to cause hurt feelings, but I need this behavior to stop. How can I convey to Sarah that I need her to quit gifting us junk?

REGIFTED IN NORTH CAROLINA

DEAR REGIFTED: Do it in plain English, with your husband present, before the next gift-giving occasion arises. Convey that if she has secondhand items she wants to get rid of, she should donate them to her favorite charity thrift shop. Then tell her you don't need anything and, in the future, you would prefer she give you a nice card, preferably one that hasn't been recycled.

■■■

DEAR ABBY: Years ago, after high school, I spent a semester abroad, where I met and fell madly in love with another American student in the same program. We dated off and on for several years and remained close friends. Even after I'd married someone else, we would write often and occasionally travel together. He and my husband got along well. Then he met the woman who eventually became his wife, and she preferred we not maintain our friendship. He and I haven't spoken in at least 15 years.

Recently, one of the teachers of our semester abroad retired and gave away a pile of photos, including ones from the program I was in. I digitized the images and would love to share them with my old friend. I sent an email to the most recent address I have for him and received no reply. Now I'm not sure if it's because it's a bad email address or because he's not interested in starting a conversation with me. A quick, non-stalking web search did not immediately turn up a second address.

Is it worth another try? I'm pretty sure I could contact him through his family, but do you think it's better to let it go? In my heart, I know I'm using the pictures as an excuse to get in touch, but I don't have nefarious intentions.

RIGHT DECISION IN THE EAST

DEAR RIGHT DECISION: I'm voting no. Whether or not you are trying to reach out to this man for nefarious reasons, the result would be that his wife would be upset about it. Let it go.

■■■

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." Send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $8 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby, Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Shipping and handling are included in the price.)

DEAR ABBY

BY ABIGAIL VAN BUREN

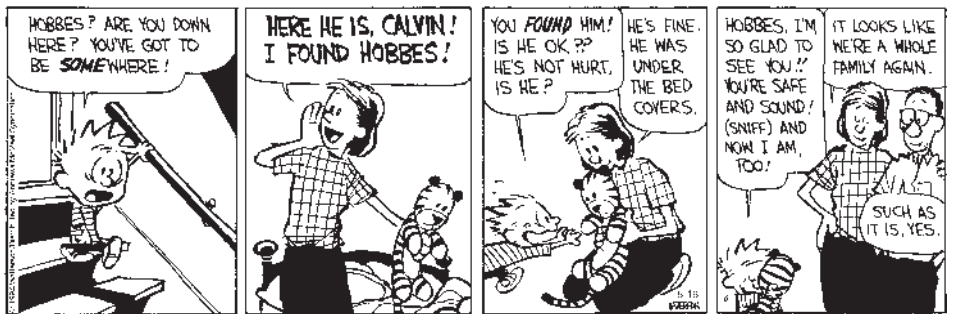
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Pastimes

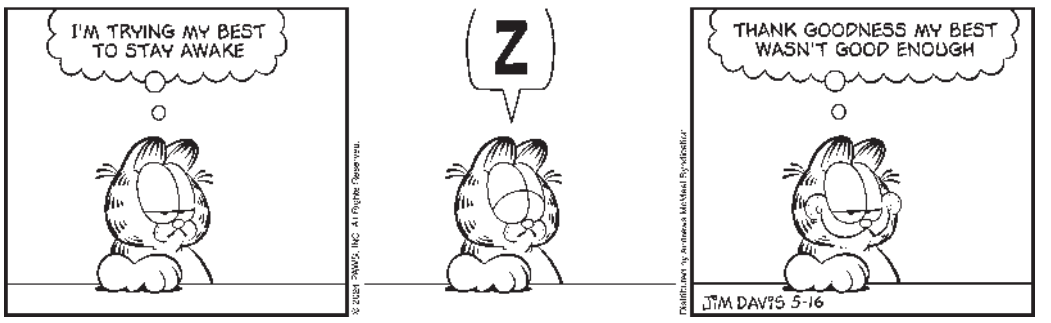
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


HOBBES? ARE YOU DOWN HERE? YOU'VE GOT TO BE SOMEWHERE!
HERE HE IS, CALVIN! I FOUND HOBBES!
YOU FOUND HIM! IS HE OK?? HE'S NOT HURT, IS HE?
HE'S FINE. HE WAS UNDER THE BED COVERS.
HOBBES, I'M SO GLAD TO SEE YOU!! YOU'RE SAFE AND SOUND! (SNIFF) AND NOW I AM, TOO!
IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE A WHOLE FAMILY AGAIN.
SUCH AS IT IS, YES.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



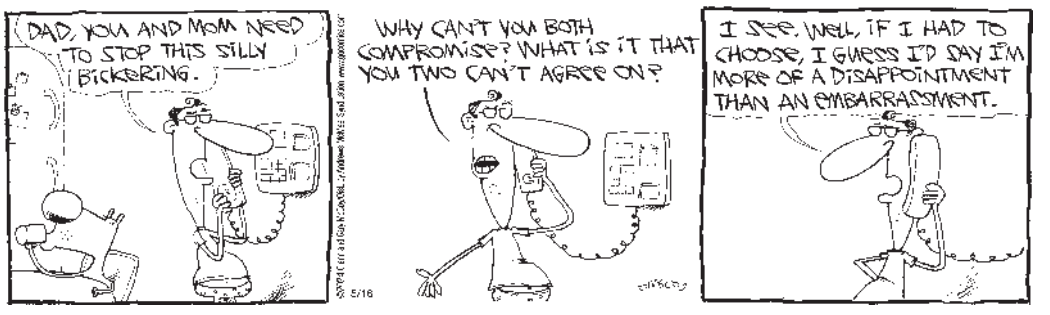
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

AI IS FILLING IN FOR ROB THIS WEEK.
WE SHOULD PLAY CATCH!
AN AMUSING PASTIME!
TOSS IT HERE, QUESTIONABLE FATHER FIGURE!
HERE COMES MY HIGH VELOCITY THROW!
WINDOW CRASH!
UH-OH
TOO VELOCITISH!

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy


DAD, YOU AND MOM NEED TO STOP THIS SILLY BICKERING.
WHY CAN'T YOU BOTH COMPROMISE? WHAT IS IT THAT YOU TWO CAN'T AGREE ON?
I SEE. WELL, IF I HAD TO CHOOSE, I GUESS I'D SAY I'M MORE OF A DISAPPOINTMENT THAN AN EMBARRASSMENT.

CROSSWORD

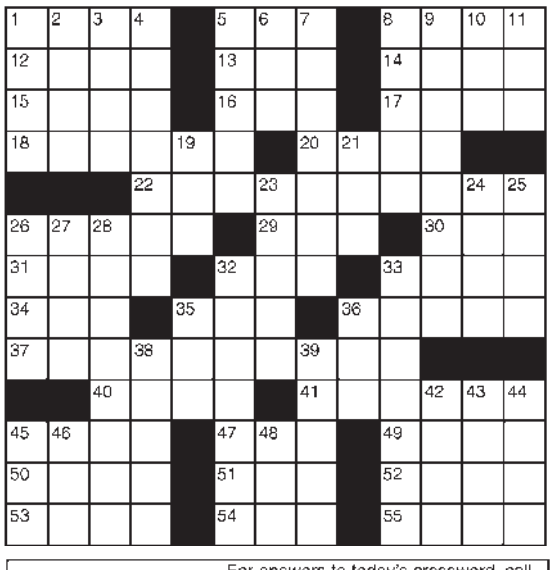
By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Novelist Waugh
5 Cudgel
8 Baseball stats
12 Video-streaming site
13 "I love," in Latin
14 German car name
15 Culture medium
16 — Paulo
17 Fed. accident investi-gator
18 Trail the pack
20 Aspiring atty.'s exam
22 Casual "Behold!"
26 Now
29 Tin Man's need
30 Compass dir.
31 Twistable treat
32 Feedbag bit
33 Clothing
34 Follower (Suff.)
35 Some printers
36 Station
37 Casual "Behold!"
40 13, in old Rome
41 Jordan's neighbor
45 Slightly
47 Actor Ferrer
49 Sea predator
50 Fourth-down play
51 Web address
52 PC picture
53 Like custard
54 Has per-mission
55 Vocal quality

DOWN
1 Melville captain
2 Olympic sled
3 Israeli carrier
4 Bitter orange liqueur
5 Butter up the turkey
6 Docs' bloc
7 Carpentry gear
8 Rushed toward
9 "Oh, shush!"
10 Luggage tags, e.g.
11 Bro or sis
19 Bashful
21 Part of RSVP
23 Seaboard
24 Nullify
25 Try out
26 Work hard
27 Roughly
28 Drying out, so to speak
32 Very best
33 Michigan city
35 Japanese "yes"
36 "— Kapital"
38 Poker pot
39 Not flat
42 With the bow, musically
43 Nobel Prize subj.
44 Highway division
45 Chest-beating beast
46 Glitch
48 Epoch

Solution time: 24 mins.

Yesterday's answer 5-16



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Megan Fox, 38; Tori Spelling, 51; Janet Jackson, 58; Pierce Brosnan, 71.

Happy Birthday: Share your thoughts and you'll gain momentum. Appeal to those who can contribute to your plans. Take the initiative this year to make a difference. Your dedication, insight and persistence will propel you to connect with people willing to go the distance and help you complete your mission. A stubborn stance can be an asset when used correctly. Know your target market and do what you do best. Your numbers are 5, 12, 20, 27, 33, 36, 47.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* Remain calm; don't get fired up over something you cannot change. Use your energy to enhance your health and physical appearance or to do something nice for someone you love. A positive response and a helping hand will win favors and make you feel good about yourself. ✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Don't apply pressure. Start the process, do the work yourself and, as you move forward, you'll attract attention and the help you need to finish what you start. Be the driving force that makes a difference. A change of heart will encourage commitment. ✪✪✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Look on the bright side, offer positive suggestions and avoid emotional drama. You'll accomplish the most if you focus on domestic improvements and connecting with people who can provide expertise regarding something new. ✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* Speak up and share your expertise and what you are willing to contribute. Your input will turn into a learning experience that benefits you and others. Keep an open mind and show compassion; a window of opportunity will appear. ✪✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Too much talk and no action will work against you. Put your energy where it counts, and you'll gain momentum and valuable information. Refuse to let what others do sidetrack you. Focus on what excites you most, and you'll discover your niche. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Press forward, regardless of what others do or say. Take the path that brings out your passion and makes you feel good about yourself and what you contribute. Take responsibility for your happiness and your lot in life. Live, learn and love. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* Don't reveal secrets or give anyone personal information that can affect your financial situation. You have plenty to gain if you invest in yourself and what you believe in and take the necessary precautions when dealing with outsiders. ✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Don't let anyone slow you down. If you forge ahead, you will make gains and build momentum. An innovative option will lead to unexpected stability and a connection to someone who can add luster to your life. Romance is on the rise. ✪✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Kick back with familiar people or visit places that you find comforting, and you will find peace of mind and answers to questions that are puzzling you. Distance yourself from drama and chaos or those trying to confuse you by sending mixed messages. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Choose to achieve, and refuse to let what you cannot control stop you from making the most of your day. Engage in events that bring out your best assets and skills, and you'll surprise those unaware of what you can do. Success and personal growth are favored. ✪✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Get out, make things happen and refuse to let anyone get in your way. Refrain from feeling obligated to follow; leading is necessary to reach your goal. Put your energy where it will bring the highest return. Focus on benefiting yourself, not someone else. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Spend more time getting to know someone. A change of scenery will bring back memories and encourage you to create and accept an opportunity that gives you the freedom to use your talents vibrantly. Trust your instincts and follow through with your plans. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are loyal, steadfast and prolific. You are disciplined and precise.

✪: Avoid conflicts; work behind the scenes. ✪✪: You can accomplish, but don't rely on others. ✪✪✪: Focus and you'll reach your goals. ✪✪✪✪: Aim high; start new projects. ✪✪✪✪✪: Nothing can stop you; go for gold.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

	5		1		8		6	3
					7			1
			6		3			
8						5		4
	4		5	8	6	1		7
9		5			1	6	2	
4								
	8		2				7	6
			8	1				5

Difficulty: ★★★ 5/16

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Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

5	8	3	7	4	9	2	6	1
6	9	2	3	5	1	7	4	8
4	7	1	6	8	2	5	3	9
7	3	6	9	2	5	8	1	4
2	1	8	4	6	7	3	9	5
9	5	4	1	3	8	6	2	7
8	6	5	2	9	4	1	7	3
3	4	7	8	1	6	9	5	2
1	2	9	5	7	3	4	8	6

Difficulty: ★★★ 5/15

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

MILK IS GOOD! Solution: 9 letters

D	I	G	E	S	T	T	S	A	F	K	A	E	R	B
E	E	T	A	R	E	G	I	R	F	E	R	S	O	O
N	L	V	I	T	A	M	I	N	S	T	A	O	M	N
T	E	T	B	H	T	G	N	E	R	T	S	U	I	E
A	C	N	A	A	H	E	A	R	T	T	I	R	N	N
L	T	E	L	T	G	C	H	U	M	C	O	C	E	O
M	R	C	M	O	T	S	N	S	L	P	D	R	R	I
U	O	R	O	Y	C	O	I	A	H	N	I	E	A	T
I	L	E	N	D	C	L	C	Y	O	S	N	A	L	A
S	Y	P	D	O	O	E	S	I	R	W	E	M	S	L
E	T	O	C	B	R	I	S	I	R	I	O	L	S	U
N	E	W	A	E	C	I	C	O	W	S	A	A	K	C
G	S	T	A	A	V	E	N	I	K	S	T	D	I	R
A	E	L	L	A	C	T	O	S	E	N	U	M	M	I
M	O	Z	Z	A	R	E	L	L	A	E	Z	I	N	C

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Almond, Bags, Body, Bone, Boost, Breakfast, Calcium, Cereal, Circulation, Coconut, Cows, Dairy, Dental, Digest, Electrolytes, Heart, Immune, Iodine, Lactose, Magnesium, Metabolism, Minerals, Mozzarella, Oats, Physical, Refrigerate, Rice, Ricotta, Skim, Skin, Sour Cream, Strength, Swiss, Two Percent, Vision, Vitamins, Zinc

Yesterday's Answer: Trapezoid

The NEW **Treasury 58** can be purchased online at www.WonderWordBooks.com, or call 1-800-642-6480. (In Canada, call 1-866-232-2367)

Jokic scores 40, Nuggets shut down Edwards in win over Wolves

DENVER (AP)—Nikola Jokic celebrated his third NBA MVP award by scoring 40 points and the Denver Nuggets shut down Anthony Edwards in a 112-97 win over the Minnesota Timberwolves on Tuesday night. That put the reigning NBA champions one win away from the Western Conference finals.

Jokic also had 13 assists and seven rebounds with no turnovers as the home team won for the first time this semifinal series. Aaron Gordon added 18 points and 10 boards, and Jamal Murray scored 16.

Edwards was held to 18 points on 5-of-15 shooting. Karl Anthony-Towns led the Wolves with 23 points and Rudy Gobert scored 18.

With their first three-game losing streak of the season, the Wolves will have to snap their skid Thursday night at Target Center to force a Game 7 back in Denver.

Jokic, who was presented with his third MVP trophy by commissioner Adam Silver in a pregame ceremony, scored 19 first-half points in leading Denver to a 50-44 lead at the half. He added 16 points in the third quarter when the Nuggets pushed their lead to 14.

Jokic's dunk with 7:12 left in the fourth gave Denver a 98-80 lead. After the Wolves used a mini-run to pull to 103-92, Jokic nailed a 3-pointer at the shot clock buzzer over a helpless Gobert, who recently won his fourth NBA Defensive Player of the Year award, to make it a 14-point lead with just over 3 minutes left.

After the Wolves inched ahead 55-53 early in the third quarter, Jokic assisted on four consecutive baskets during Denver's 11-2 response for a 64-57 lead that would stand the rest of the way.

Edwards averaged 33.3 points in the first four games of the series and the Wolves were looking for somebody else to step up. Although KAT did just that, Edwards missed eight of his first nine shots, had five points at halftime and didn't find his shooting touch until the game had gotten away from the Timberwolves.

Timberwolves veteran point guard Mike Conley was scratched just before tipoff with a sore right Achilles. He was injured when he missed a 3-pointer on the Wolves' final possession in their loss on Sunday. Nickeil Alexander-Walker started in his spot and had 14 points and five assists.

AP

Denver Nuggets center Nikola Jokic shoots over Minnesota Timberwolves center Rudy Gobert during the first half of Game 5 of an NBA basketball second-round playoff series Tuesday, May 14, 2024, in Denver.

Minnesota coach Chris Finch said before the game that the Wolves were looking to add to their rotation whether or not Conley played and he found some time for Monte Morris after Denver's bench outplayed the Wolves' reserves in Minneapolis. Morris scored six points.

In his pre-game comments, Finch also expressed dismay at the NBA fining Rudy Gobert $75,000 for making a money gesture following a call by referee Scott Foster in Game 4.

KNICKS 121, PACERS 91

NEW YORK (AP)—The New York Knicks have one more step to climb to reach the Eastern Conference finals for the first time since 2000.

Jalen Brunson, after a couple rough games, looks ready to take it.

Brunson scored 44 points, reaching 40 for the fifth time in this postseason, and the Knicks beat the Indiana Pacers 121-91 on Tuesday night for a 3-2 lead in their playoff series.

The Knicks rebounded from a blowout loss and guaranteed themselves at least one more game at Madison Square Garden in front of their roaring fans who had been aching to see big games in late spring again. Josh Hart had 18 points and 11 rebounds, and Deuce McBride scored 17 points after he was inserted into the starting lineup.

The No. 2-seeded Knicks can win the series Friday night at Indiana after the first two-day break between games in the series. Caitlin Clark's WNBA home debut with the Indiana Fever is scheduled for Thursday night at Gainbridge Fieldhouse, causing the extra day that perhaps can benefit a New York team that is playing without four key players.

Game 7, if necessary, would be Sunday afternoon.

"We still need one more win so we can't get too excited about it," Knicks coach Tom Thibodeau said. "We have to understand what we need to do, stay focused on the task at hand. If you feel good about yourself you get knocked down in this league. We've got to be ready to go."

Brunson hurt his right foot in Game 2 and was limited to 18 points Sunday, his lowest of the postseason, when the Pacers ran the Knicks off the floor in a 121-89 romp. He kept insisting he was fine and there was no reason to question that Tuesday.

"I think as a team, no matter what the situation is, we have the same mindset no matter what," Brunson said. "And regardless of how I'm feeling or someone else is feeling, we know what's at stake, we know what we have to do and we're going to figure it out."

Pulling up quickly for 3-pointers off the dribble or using his series of fakes and spins to set up soft jumpers in the lane, Brunson shot 18 for 35 and again looked like the player who finished fifth this season in MVP voting, not the one who shot 10 for 26 in Game 3 and 6 for 17 on Sunday.

He scored 28 in the first half, a Knicks playoff record, and then put away the game in the fourth with seven straight points, capped by a three-point play that made it 106-86 with 7:57 to go.

Brunson, who scored 43 in Game 1 to become the fourth player in NBA history with four consecutive 40-point games in the playoffs, had plenty of help.

Alec Burks, who had been out of the rotation entirely until re-emerging after a rash of injuries, added 18 points off the bench and Isaiah Hartenstein had seven points and 17 rebounds. Hartenstein grabbed 12 on the offensive end, helping the Knicks overwhelm the Pacers 53-29 on the glass, with 20 offensive rebounds leading to 26 second-chance points.

"We got annihilated on loose balls, rebounds. Gave up 20 offensive rebounds and 29 more shots. So, we all own it," Pacers coach Rick Carlisle said. "But very embarrassing. Very embarrassing and a hard lesson."

Pascal Siakam scored 22 points for the sixth-seeded Pacers, who will try to stay unbeaten at home in the postseason to force the decisive game. Myles Turner added 16 but All-Star Tyrese Haliburton had only 13 after averaging 29.7 over the last three games.

Indiana got off to a strong start before the Knicks surged ahead with an 11-0 run en route to a 38-32 lead after one. Carlisle burned three timeouts in the quarter, the crowd seemingly growing louder with each.

Brunson had consecutive baskets for a 13-point lead early in the second quarter and then had the first basket in a 9-0 run that made it 65-47 with 2:11 remaining. A 17-0 run in the third turned an eight-point lead into an 89-64 bulge.

"They killed us on the glass better than they probably have in any game all series," Haliburton said. "We just didn't match the intensity level all night."

The Knicks haven't reached the conference finals since the Pacers beat them in 2000 in the sixth meeting between the teams in eight years. With Patrick Ewing, Latrell Sprewell and Larry Johnson among the players from that era in the crowd, this one had some of that 1990s Knicks-Pacers fierceness in a game featuring five technical fouls.

Isaiah Jackson was called for a foul for a hard pick that knocked Donte DiVincenzo to the court in the first half. Hartenstein walked up and got chest-to-chest with Jackson, and Burks also came in and appeared to bring his hand up and make contact with Jackson. All three players were called for technical fouls.

Later, after DiVincenzo slammed down the miss of Brunson's jumper, he and Turner got tangled up as DiVincenzo tried to fight through a pick. They then screamed at each other after a foul was called and both were given technical fouls as the crowd chanted DiVincenzo's name while referees reviewed the play.

Bronny James says he's 'grateful' to have NBA dream in reach after health scare last summer

CHICAGO (AP)—Bronny James still has some lingering fears. He also has big dreams.

Nearly a year after going into cardiac arrest during a workout, he is close to achieving his goal of playing in the NBA just like his famous father.

"It's just a great thing to happen to me, in terms of just being grateful for everything," James said at the NBA draft combine. "I put in the work and stuff like that to get back, so I feel like I've earned the opportunity. I'm extremely grateful for everything that's been given to me."

James played in a scrimmage on Tuesday after participating in drills the previous day, when he had his vertical leap measured at 40 1/2 inches and his height—without shoes—at 6-foot-1 1/2 despite being listed by Southern California as 6-4. He also answered questions from reporters, something he didn't do last season.

The son of NBA career scoring leader LeBron James, Bronny James was one of the nation's top prospects when he decided to stay near home and committed to USC last May out of Sierra Canyon School in nearby Chatsworth. But things took an unexpected turn last summer.

James went into cardiac arrestbecause of a congenital heart defect during a basketball workout at USC in late July and needed surgery. He was hospitalized at Cedars-Sinai Medical Center in Los Angeles and later seen by doctors at the Mayo Clinic and Atlantic Health-Morristown Medical Center in New Jersey.

"It was a tough time, for sure," he said. "All this work that I put in, it just really built me into someone that would never give up. It paid off because I put in the work after that situation, and I'm back to where I want to be."

James said the possibility that he wouldn't be able to play again was discussed. Even now, the fear from the cardiac arrest "is still lingering."

"I feel like my parents were a big factor believing in me and giving me the love and affection that I needed at that time," he said. "I still think about everything that could happen. I just love the game so much that it overpowers it."

James missed the first month of the season. He averaged 4.8 points, 2.8 rebounds and 2.1 assists in 25 games for the Trojans.

"That would set anybody back, what he went through," said Isaiah Collier, a projected first-round pick after starring as a freshman at USC. "Y'all gonna see what he's really capable of real soon. I feel like Bronny's a great player. He definitely deserves to be here. He's gonna be fine."

USC went 15-18 overall and 8-12 in the Pac-12 during a season marked by injuries to several players. The Trojans missed the NCAA Tournament after three straight appearances, and coach Andy Enfield left to take the job at SMU.

Marlins beat Tigers, 1-0, in 10 innings

DETROIT (AP)—Jesús Sánchez drove in Bryan De La Cruz with a 10th-inning groundout, and the Miami Marlins beat the Detroit Tigers 1-0 on Tuesday night.

Both starters—Miami's Ryan Weathers and Detroit's Reese Olson—allowed three singles in a career-best eight innings. Olson struck out six, and Weathers finished with four strikeouts.

Josh Bell hit a leadoff single in the 10th against Alex Lange (0-3), moving De La Cruz to third. Sánchez then hit a bouncer to second that resulted in a forceout at second base.

A.J. Puk pitched a scoreless 10th for his first save.

Weathers matched a bit of family history; his father, David, allowed three hits in eight shutout innings for the Marlins against the San Diego Padres on Sept. 6, 1993. David Weathers spent most of his 19-season career as a reliever, only starting 69 games.

Weathers didn't allow a baserunner until Wenceel Pérez led off the sixth with a grounder through the infield. Javier Báez then grounded into a double play.

The Tigers put two runners on against Tanner Scott (2-4) in the ninth, including Mark Canha reaching on the game's only walk, but Riley Greene grounded out to end the inning.

AP

Miami Marlins relief pitcher A.J. Puk throws during the tenth inning of a baseball game against the Detroit Tigers, Tuesday, May 14, 2024, in Detroit.

BREWERS 4, PIRATES 3

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Sal Frelick homered for the first time this season, Joe Ross and three relievers combined on a three-hitter, and Milwaukee beat the Pittsburgh.

Pittsburgh's Nick Gonzales hit his first homer of the year, and Connor Joe also went deep for the Pirates.

Gonzales' last homer was July 2 against the Brewers. Frelick hadn't homered since Aug. 7 of last season, against the Pirates.

Frelick also made two diving catches in center field. He caught a sinking liner from Jared Triolo to end the second and made a play on the warning track to rob Andrew McCutchen of an extra-base hit in the eighth.

Joe homered with two outs in the ninth off Trevor Megill to cut Milwaukee's lead to 4-3, but Megill struck out Jack Suwinski to earn his fifth save.

PHILLIES 4, METS 0

NEW YORK (AP)—Aaron Nola pitched a four-hitter for his fourth major league shutout and the Philadelphia beat the slumping New York Mets for a two-game sweep.

Philadelphia scored twice in the third inning against starter Jose Buttó on a hit by pitch and a bases-loaded walk. Bryson Stott had a run-scoring single in the ninth and Alec Bohm doubled home a run to finish with two RBIs.

Nola (5-2) did the rest, throwing 109 pitches in his sixth career complete game and first since a five-hit shutout against Cincinnati in August 2022. He struck out eight and walked none. It was the third time in nine starts this season he lasted at least eight innings.

BRAVES 7, CUBS 0

ATLANTA (AP)—Matt Olson hit a three-run homer and drove in four, Chris Sale pitched two-hit ball over seven innings and Atlanta beat the Chicago Cubs for their second straight shutout in the series.

Michael Harris II also homered for Atlanta, which has won six of seven. The Cubs were held to three hits by Sale and relievers Aaron Bummer and Jackson Stephens and have managed a combined eight hits while being outscored 9-0 in the first two games of the series.

Sale (6-1) had nine strikeouts, his third consecutive start with at least nine, and didn't walk anybody. The right-hander won his fifth straight start.

Right-hander Jameson Taillon's fielding error on Orlando Arcia's grounder helped set up the Braves' six-run fourth inning, including the homers by Harris and Olson. Five runs in the inning were unearned.

YANKEES 5, TWINS 1

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Giancarlo Stanton homered and Carlos Rodón overcame a shaky start and worked six-plus strong inning as the New York Yankees beat Minnesota Twins 5-1.

Alex Verdugo added a two-run double for New York, which has won nine of 12. The Yankees continue to thrive in Minnesota where they are 29-15 all-time at Target Field and boast the highest winning percentage of any opponent at the park.

Rodón (4-2) allowed a leadoff home run to Ryan Jeffers in the bottom of the first inning and surrendered three hits in the frame. He gave up six hits overall and didn't walk a batter, finishing with six strikeouts before being lifted following a leadoff single by Carlos Santana in the seventh. The 31-year-old left-hander had retired 11 in a row before Santana's hit.

Rodón has allowed two runs or less in seven of his 10 starts this season. Ian Hamilton relieved Rodón and allowed a pinch-hit single by Edouard Julien, but came back to strand both runners. He pitched two scoreless innings, and Clay Holmes worked a perfect ninth.

WHITE SOX 4, NATIONALS 0, GAME 1 NATIONALS 6, WHITESOX 3, GAME 2

CHICAGO (AP)—Keibert Ruiz and Trey Lipscomb each hit an RBI single during Washington's three-run eighth inning, and the Nationals beat the Chicago White Sox in the opener of straight doubleheader.

Joey Meneses went 4 for 4 and drove in two runs for Washington, which had lost three of four. Lipscomb had three hits and swiped three bases.

Derek Law (3-1) got three outs for the win, and Kyle Finnegan handled the ninth for his 13th save in 14 opportunities.

Eloy Jiménez hit a solo homer for Chicago, which has dropped two in a row since a four-game win streak. Tommy Pham had two hits and drove in a run.

Vaughn hit his second homer of the season with two out in the third inning in the second game, connecting on a 1-1 pitch from Mitchell Parker (2-2). He went deep again in the eighth against Jackson Rutledge.

After Fedde (4-0) departed, Jordan Leasure worked the eighth and Michael Kopech finished the four-hitter.

Kopech issued consecutive walks with one out in the ninth, and the runners advanced on the reliever's second wild pitch of the inning. But Ruiz popped out and Jesse Winker lined to left.

RED SOX 5, RAYS 4, 12 INNINGS

BOSTON (AP)—Romy Gonzalez singled home the winning run in the bottom of the 12th as Boston rallied to beat the Tampa Bay.

Gonzalez dropped a hit to shallow right off reliever Manuel Rodríguez, who had intentionally walked Tyler O'Neill to start the inning. Instead of forcing a possible double play, the move allowed Connor Wong to easily score the game-winner after a wild few extra innings.

Cedanne Rafaela, who homered in the fifth for Boston, delivered a wild throw in the 11th that allowed the Rays to briefly take a 4-3 lead. But Boston was able to tie it when Rodríguez immediately looked to second instead of home on a grounder up the middle that allowed Boston to tie it.

GUARDIANS 7, RANGERS 4

ARLINGTON, Texas (AP)—Josh Naylor hit a three-run homer, Bo Naylor had a two-run double and the AL Central-leading Cleveland beat Texas, handing the reigning World Series champions their season-high fifth consecutive loss.

Those big hits by the Naylor brothers came in a six-run second inning for the Guardians. Older brother Josh's 12th homer with two outs put them up 6-0 and chased top pitching prospect Jack Leiter (0-1).

Adolis García, Corey Seager and Nathaniel Lowe hit solo homers for the Rangers (22-22).

ASTROS 2, ATHLETICS 1, 10 INNINGS

HOUSTON (AP)—Victor Caratini hit an RBI single in the 10th inning to lift Houston to a 2-1 win over the Oakland after the Astros lost their starting pitcher when Ronel Blanco was ejected following a foreign substance check.

The game was tied at 1 when pinch-runner Trey Cabbage replaced Jon Singleton as the automatic runner on second in the bottom of the 10th. Cabbage moved to third on a flyball by Jake Meyers before Caratini hit a grounder to center off Michael Kelly (2-1) to give the Astros their fifth win in six games.

Josh Hader (2-3) got the win by escaping a jam in the top of the 10th. With one out and runners on second and third, the veteran closer struck out pinch-hitter Esteury Ruiz before Brent Rooker grounded out to end the threat.

ROYALS 4, MARINERS 2

SEATTLE (AP)—Nelson Velázquez hit a three-run homer in the seventh inning to put Kansas City ahead, and Michael Wacha worked six dominant innings as the Royals beat Seattle.

Velázquez's third homer of the season spoiled what had been a strong outing for Seattle starter Logan Gilbert. Entering the decisive seventh, Gilbert had given up just three hits in six shutout innings.

It all fell apart for Gilbert (3-2) in the seventh as Bobby Witt, Jr. led off with a walk and reached second on a Vinnie Pasquantino groundout to second base. Salvador Perez then reached on an intentional walk, and scored two batters later when Velázquez sent a 398-foot blast to left field.

ROCKIES 6, PADRES 3

SAN DIEGO (AP)—Ezequiel Tovar homered and Colorado beat Dylan Cease and San Diego, extending their win streak to a season-high six games.

Tovar, Ryan McMahon and Elehuris Montero each had two hits as last-place Colorado improved to 4-2 against San Diego this season.

REDS 6, DIAMONDBACKS 2

PHOENIX (AP)—Hunter Greene pitched seven effective innings, Will Benson hit a two-run homer and Cincinnati bounced back from a difficult loss with a win over Arizona.

Arizona handed the reeling Reds a 6-5 loss on Monday night on Kevin Newman's two-run single in the bottom of the ninth inning.

Cincinnati gave the Diamondbacks no chance of another late rally, racking up 13 hits while scoring six runs between the fourth and sixth innings.

CARDINALS 7, ANGELS 6

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP)—Alec Burleson hit a two-run homer in the seventh inning, Pedro Pagés had a three-run double for his first MLB hit and the St. Louis defeated the Los Angeles Angels.

Kevin Pillar had three hits and Logan O'Hoppe had a three-run homer in the fourth inning as the Angels fell to 1-5 on their current homestand despite rallying from an early five-run deficit. The Halos are a major league-worst 5-16 at home.

DODGERS 10, GIANTS 2

SAN FRANCISCO (AP)—Shohei Ohtani had a solo home run and an RBI double among his three hits, and the NL West-leading Los Angeles Dodgers pounded rival San Francisco.

Ohtani's 12th homer highlighted a four-run fourth that was capped by Gavin Lux's RBI triple. Teoscar Hernández doubled home a run and Max Muncy hit a sacrifice fly in the inning, backing Gavin Stone (4-1). Hernández later contributed a two-run triple.

Will Smith hit an RBI single in the fifth in the Dodgers' sixth straight victory in the series dating to last year. Los Angeles has won 14 of 17 at Oracle Park and 10 of 12 overall against the Giants since being swept at home from June 16-18, 2023.

Gruden loses Nevada high court ruling in NFL emails lawsuit

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Former NFL coach Jon Gruden lost a Nevada Supreme Court ruling Tuesday in a contract interference and conspiracy lawsuit he filed against the league after he resigned from the Las Vegas Raiders in 2021, but his lawyer said he will appeal.

A three-justice panel split 2-1, saying the league can force the civil case out of state court and into private arbitration that might be overseen by NFL Commissioner Roger Goodell.

Gruden's attorney, Adam Hosmer-Henner, said he will appeal to the full seven-member state high court to hear the case.

"The panel's split decision would leave Nevada an outlier where an employer can unilaterally determine whether an employee's dispute must go to arbitration and also allow the employer to adjudicate the dispute as the arbitrator," the attorney said.

Attorney Kannon Shanmugam, representing the NFL, declined to comment on the ruling.

AP

Then-Las Vegas Raiders head coach Jon Gruden speaks during a news conference after an NFL football game against the Chicago Bears, Sunday, Oct. 10, 2021, in Las Vegas.

Gruden's lawsuit, filed in November 2021, alleges the league forced him into resigning from the Raiders by leaking racist, sexist and homophobic emails that he sent many years earlier, when he was at ESPN.

The panel majority, Justices Elissa Cadish and Kristina Pickering, said Gruden "expressly acknowledged" in his contract with the Raiders that he understood the NFL constitution allowed for arbitration to resolve disputes.

They also said it wasn't clear that Goodell would arbitrate Gruden's case, citing other cases in which the commissioner designated third-party arbitrators to hear disputes.

"As a former Super Bowl champion coach and longtime media personality signing the most lucrative NFL coaching contract in history, while being represented by an elite agent, Gruden was the very definition of a sophisticated party," Cadish and Pickering wrote.

In her dissent, Justice Linda Marie Bell said the NFL constitution was a 447-page "take-it-or-leave-it" add-on to Gruden's seven-page contract with the Raiders that left him with "unequal bargaining power."

"The majority indicates, and I agree, that the employment agreement is substantively unconscionable because Goodell acting as arbitrator is outrageous," Bell wrote.

Gruden was the Raiders head coach when the team moved in 2020 from Oakland to Las Vegas. He left the team with more than six seasons remaining on his record 10-year, $100 million contract. Raiders owner Mark Davis later said the team reached a settlement with Gruden over the final years of his contract. The terms were not disclosed.

The league appealed to the state high court after a May 2022 decision by Clark County District Court Judge Nancy Allf, who has since retired from the bench. Allf ruled that Gruden's claim that the league intentionally leaked only his documents could show evidence of "specific intent" or an act designed to cause a particular result.

Gruden's emails went to former Washington Commanders executive Bruce Allen from 2011 to 2018, when Gruden was at ESPN. They were found amid some 650,000 emails the league obtained during an investigation into the workplace culture of the Washington team.

Gruden alleges that disclosure of the emails and their publication by the Wall Street Journal and New York Times destroyed his career and scuttled endorsement contracts. He is seeking monetary damages.

Mahomes vs. Burrow showdown coming in Week

NEW YORK (AP)—First, Lamar Jackson. Then, Joe Burrow.

The two-time defending Super Bowl champion Chiefs face a daunting test in opening their season after CBS unveiled Kansas City's Week 2 opponent as being the Cincinnati Bengals on Tuesday. The league also announced Aaron Rodgers and the New York Jets will open their season on ESPN's Monday Night Football on Sept. 9 in traveling to play the NFC champion San Francisco 49ers.

Prime Video later announced it's Thursday Night Football schedule will open in Week 2 with an AFC East showdown featuring the Miami Dolphins hosting the Buffalo Bills on Sept. 12.

The Bengals, with Burrow as their quarterback again following a season-ending wrist injury, will travel to play at Kansas City in a late-afternoon outing on Sept. 15. The matchup follows the league's announcement on Monday of the Chiefs opening the NFL schedule hosting the Jackson-led Baltimore Ravens on Sept. 5 in a rematch of last season's AFC title game.

The meeting against the Bengals brings together two teams who met in consecutive AFC championships, with Cincinnati winning in 2021 and the Chiefs winning the following season.

The NFL is releasing highlighted portions of its schedule in advance of the league revealing its full slate of games on Wednesday night.

The Jets are opening on Monday Night Football for a second consecutive season following a 22-16 overtime win over the Buffalo Bills last year, in what became Rodgers' celebrated but injury-abbreviated New York debut. Rodgers attempted one pass, which went incomplete, during a first series which ended with him tearing his left Achilles tendon. He was sidelined for the rest of the season.

Rodgers is on track to return to practice without limitations once the Jets begin voluntary spring sessions next week.

This season marks Prime's third since taking over the Thursday night broadcast, and kicks off with a rematch of last season's finale in which Josh Allen and the Bills defeated the Dolphins 21-14 to clinch Buffalo its fourth consecutive AFC East title. It also relegated Miami to the AFC's sixth playoff seed. Buffalo has won four consecutive meetings and 11 of 12 against Miami, including a wild-card playoff victory two years ago.

The league previously announced that the Green Bay Packers would be facing the Philadelphia Eagles in Sao Paulo, Brazil, on Sept. 6. It will be the first time the NFL has played a game on Friday night of opening weekend in more than 50 years.

The game will be streamed on Peacock, and also air on the NBC affiliates in Philadelphia, Green Bay and Milwaukee.

Also, Tom Brady's broadcast debut with Fox will be on Sept. 8 when the Dallas Cowboys open at the Cleveland Browns. It is the first time since 2019 that the Cowboys have not had a prime time kickoff in Week 1.

In a departure from past seasons, CBS and Fox will not both have a doubleheader in Week 1. Fox has it for the opening week followed by CBS in Week 2.

The league will announce the dates and opponents for the four international games in Europe on Wednesday morning. Jacksonville, Minnesota and Chicago are the designated home teams for the London contests and Carolina will head to Munich, Germany.

MPU

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them entry. The first half then came and went without any more damage from both sides. Later, MP United's Beau Bauer tied it all up in the 32nd minute and it was a whole different matchup.

MP United and Kanoa tried to break the tie as time wound down, but to no avail as both teams' defenses held steady. The match ended up being decided in a shootout after regulation.

Kanoa ended up shooting just one PK from John Paul Binghit, while MP United's Quido Jambor and Mateo Angeles sealed the deal as they both made their goals.

In the awards ceremony after the finals, the Golden Boot Award went to Antonio with the most goals of the season.

MP United with Bauer, Jambor, and Angeles, were Guy Pudney, Kanoa Owens, Reide Benson, Takara Hatamata, Evan Poole, Antonio Heras, Isaiah Sablan, Damien Camacho, and Xavier Camacho.

In Kanoa's team with Antonio and Binghit were Adrian Mercado, Benaiah Murphy, Eric Palacios Jr., Logan Propst, Michael Borja Jr., Taku Rogopes, Zion Ulloa, Xander Binghit, and Liam Sablan.

The TakeCare Youth Soccer League Spring 2024 season is now over, with the Fall 2024 season to start up later in the year.

CARDINALS

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without giving up a run. Cardinals' K.J. Villagomez held down the fort against the Braves as they handed them their second loss of the season.

In winning form, the Cardinals have bounced back from their opening game loss and have now won three games in a row for a 3-1 record behind undefeated Bandits' 3-0 sheet.

As they say, "teamwork makes the dream work" and that's exactly what the Cardinals' defense did as they backed their pitcher up and secured the complete game shutout.

The pitcher-and-catcher dynamic of Villagomez and Jerald Cabrera was in perfect synchronicity throughout the game.

From behind the plate, Cabrera showed off his own arm's strength as he threw out runners leaning too far off the base. He called Villagomez' arsenal of pitches immaculately as well as the Braves recorded just seven hits in the whole game.

Meanwhile, in the batter's box, the Cardinals made sure to pick up their pitcher as well and produce runs while the Braves were down.

The first inning saw Ton Tenorio score the first run for an early 1-0 lead. Braves young gun Aaron Camacho then had all things working for him in the second and third as he came away unscathed and gave the Braves' offense a chance to get on board.

However, the Cardinals' lumber restored their ball magnetism in the fourth and scored four runs from Nate Camacho, Cabrera, T.J. Sablan, and Pat Tenorio Jr. for a 5-0 lead.

Two more runs would score for the Cardinals in the fifth and it was more than enough to secure their third win as the Braves failed to get on board.

SBL STANDINGS

Bandits	3	0
Cardinals	3	1
Falcons	2	0
Padres	2	0
Braves	2	1
Royals	2	2
Sandlot	2	1
D-9er's	1	1
Blue Jays	1	2
Bears	0	2
White Sox	0	2
Natives	0	3
Blue Shark	0	3

MSL

From page 16

ly as Matansa's lone goal. The first half faded away, with the second half renewing vigor from both teams.

As the second half began, the intensity on the pitch increased. MP United—who are stacked with national team players—did not let a one goal deficit bring them down.

Finally, Cody Shimizu became their saving grace as he slotted a goal past Matansa's keeper to tie the game up, 1-1, in the 47th minute.

Now, with the game at a deadlock, both teams intensified their efforts to score the winning goal. The clock ticked down unforgivingly and the final minutes saw both teams pushing for a winner, but neither could find the decisive goal.

With Shimizu on MP United's roster was Dustin Radke, Simon Tang, Dev Bachani, Isiah Hossain, Wataru Kadokura, Casey Chambers, Leo Takahashi, Ronnel Ocanada, William Sose, Mark Costales, Leland Deleon Guerrero, Monaco Claridades, Tristan Raho, Edward Arriola III, Jether Yobech, Jireh Yobeh, and Ian Song.

On Matansa with Bergancia was Ariel Narvaez Jr., Saixian Bagsic, Jonne Navarro, Anthony Austria, Zhi Xiang Lin, John Masga, Tanapon Unsa, Joe Miller, Mareko Tekopua, Jamin Elliot, Seho Baek, Sunjoon Tenorio, and Dane Hodges.

In the standings, Kanoa leads with six wins, two draws, and no losses; MP United sports their 4-2-1 record; Matansa is at 3-3-2; Paire is 2-0-6; and the Men's Developmental Team is 1-0-7.

MSL1 STANDINGS

	W	D	L
Kanoa	6	2	0
MP United	4	3	1
Matansa	3	3	2
Paire	2	0	6
Men's Development Team	1	0	7

Jokic scores 40, Nuggets shut down Edwards in win over Wolves

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Gruden loses Nevada high court ruling in NFL emails lawsuit

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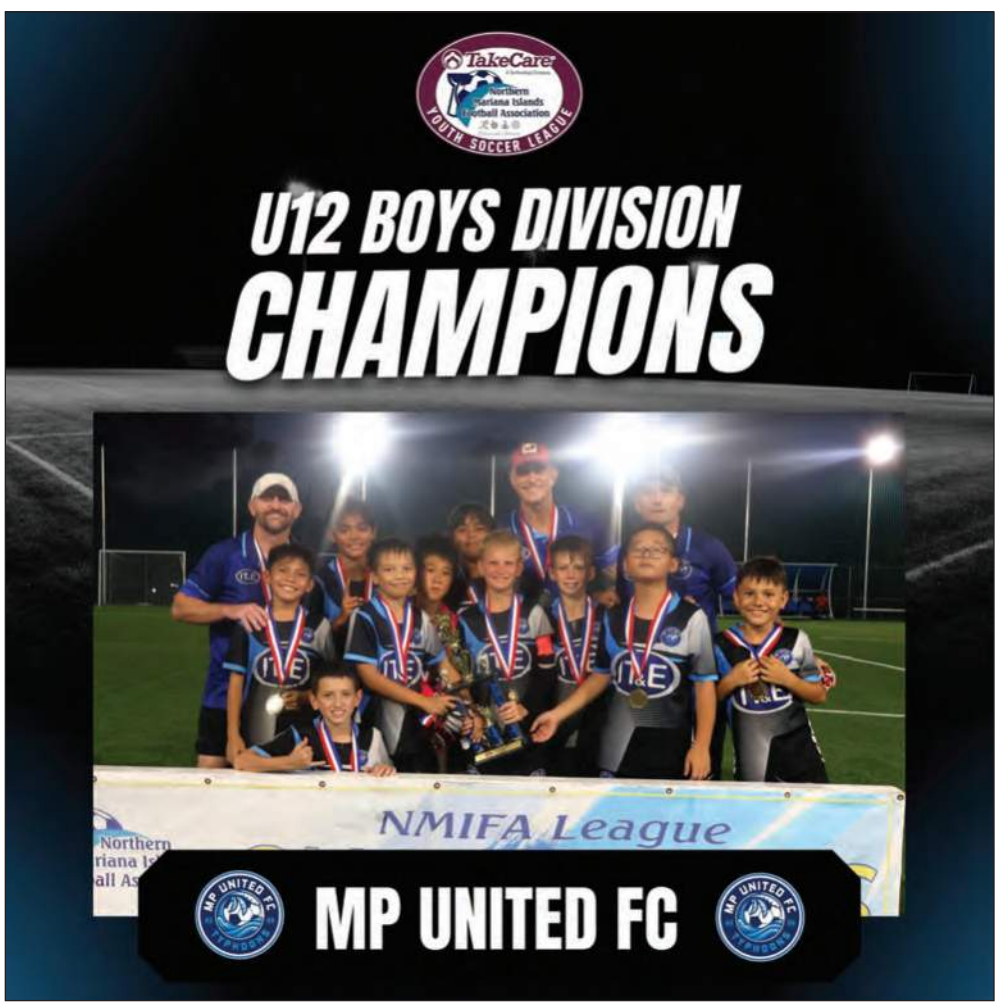
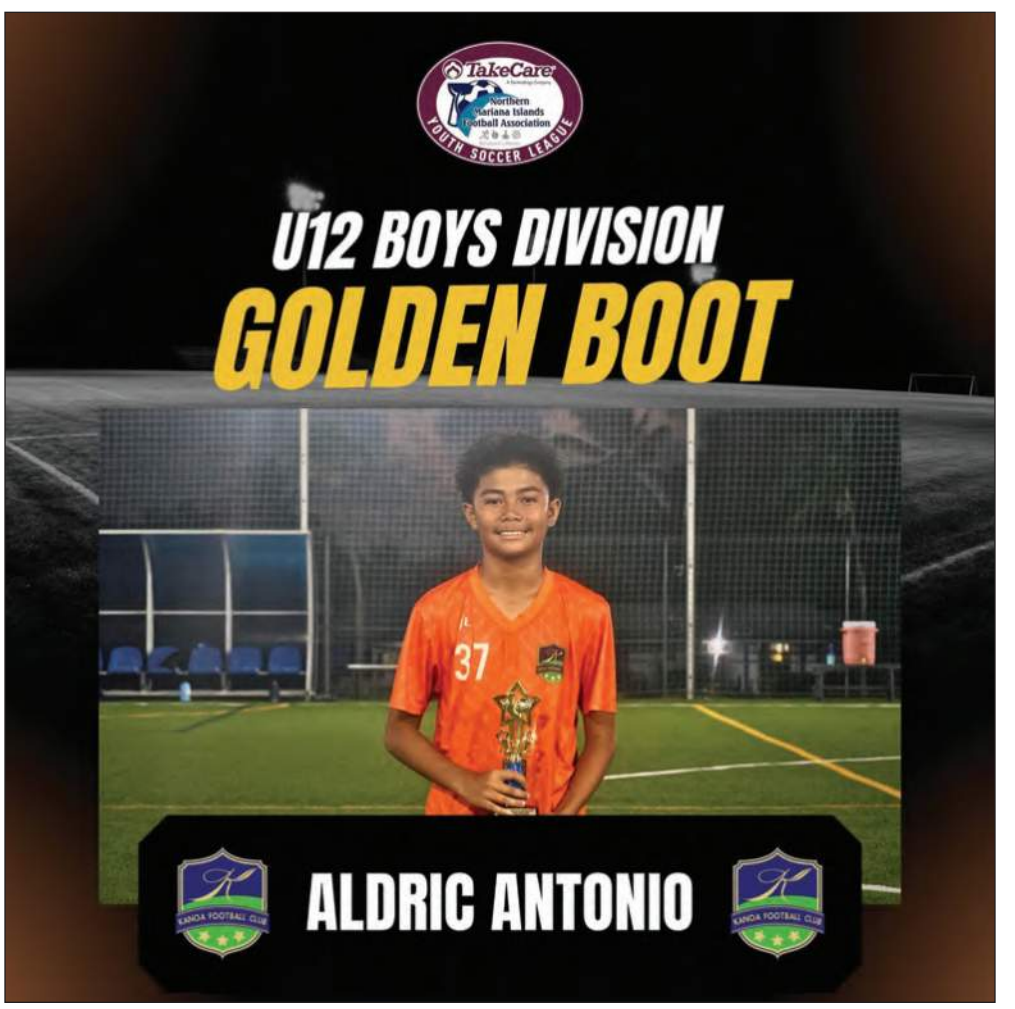


NMIFA

Champions in the U12 boys division, MP United FC pose for a group photo during the awards ceremony of the TakeCare Youth Soccer League Spring 2024 last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.



NMIFA

Kanoa 1's Aldric Antonio poses with his Golden Boot Award for the most goals of the season during the awards ceremony of the TakeCare Youth Soccer League Spring 2024 last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

MPU secures U12 boys title via shootout

By LEIGH GASES
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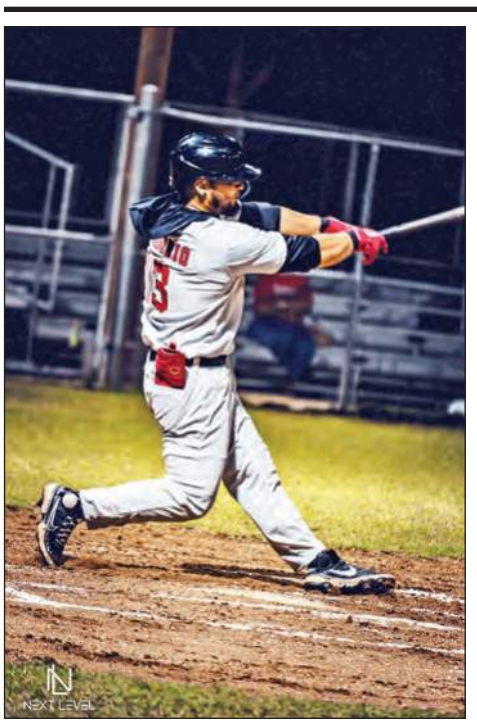
REPORTER

MP United secured the U12 boys division title after beating Kanoa 1, 3-2, in a shootout during the finals of the TakeCare Youth Soccer League Spring 2024 last Saturday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Both teams were evenly matched as they tried to assert their dominance over the other. Kanoa got to work early and Aldric Antonio slipped the first goal of the game in the fourth minute for an early lead.

MP United traversed the pitch and came up with nothing but air as Kanoa's defenses denied

See MPU on Page 15



NEXT LEVEL MEDIA CNMI

File photo shows Cardinals' Ton Tenorio swing at a pitch during one of their games in the 2024 Tan Holdings-SBL at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

Cardinals shut out Braves, 7-0

By LEIGH GASES
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REPORTER

The defending champions Cardinals earned their third win of the 2024 Tan Holdings-SBL season after shutting out the Braves, 7-0, last Tuesday at the Francisco "Tan Ko" Palacios Baseball Field.

In a rarity, a pitcher pitched a complete game

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NMIFA

MP United's Simon Tang runs down the pitch as he tries to avoid Kanoa defenders during one of their games in the Marianas Soccer League 1 at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

MP United draws, 1-1 with Matansa in MSL

By LEIGH GASES
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MP United Football Club and Matansa FC's match ended in a 1-1 draw in the Marianas Soccer League 1 last Wednesday at the NMI Soccer Training Center in Koblerville.

Exchanges between the two 10 minutes into the game led to nothing as it was a closely contested affair. But then, Matansa drew first blood in the 15th minute made by Anthony Bergancia and put them up, 1-0.

The match resumed with both sides kicking up a storm that led to multiple missed opportunities. MP United tried to play catch as the first half came and went as quick-

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